

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXX.]

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BIRTHS.

On September 29th, at Shanghai, the wife of E. J. DUNSTAN, of a daughter.
On September 27th, at Shanghai, the wife of E. O. CUMMING, of a daughter.
At Hayer, the Peak, on October 2nd, 1909, the wife of N. J. STABB, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On the 21st May, 1909, at Samarai, Papua, HERBERT NELSON HOLTON, aged 42, of appendicitis.
On September 29th, at Shanghai, HARRIETT, the dear beloved wife of E. J. DUNSTAN, of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, aged 45 years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Mr. R. H. A. CRAIG and Family return thanks for kind sympathy in their recent bereavement

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The Siberian Mail of 15th ultimo arrived on the 6th instant.
The French Mail of the 10th ultimo arrived on the 10th instant.
The Siberian Mail of 17th and 18th ultimo arrived on the 10th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

It is confidently stated that the rice crop in Japan this year will be one of unprecedented magnitude.

We learn that Mr. Butler Wright is still detained in custody at the Victoria Hotel, Shameen, Canton.

Mr. W. Meyrick Hewlett, H. M. Consul at Changsha, has been transferred to Kiukiang vice Mr. Werner, who goes Home on furlough.

The Philippine customs cruiser *Sora* has been captured by Moro pirates and it is feared that the officers and crew have been put to death by the sword.

According to an official statistical table, 61,058 cases of divorce happened in Japan during the year 1907, showing a decrease of 4,340 as compared with 1906.

Mr. Michael Hughes, formerly in the Consular service in China, has been admitted to practice in H. M.'s Supreme Court for China and Korea as a barrister-at-law.

Mr. Knabenshue, United States Consul at Belfast, has been transferred to Tientsin. His position in Ireland will be filled by Mr. H. B. Miller, at present Consul-General at Yokohama.

From Tsingtan comes the news of a serious accident, due to the collapse of the verandah of the Strand Hotel. It is believed the cause of the accident was the undermining of the foundations of the verandah by water. One man and three ladies were injured.

Capt. John, the *doyen* of the Singapore pilot service, retired at the end of last month. It is reported that Capt. Robinson, late of Singapore, trading to Bangkok, has been appointed by the Pilot Board to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Capt. John.

Workers in cigar factories at Manila struck for higher wages, having been persuaded to turn out by their Union. The employers, however, stood firm, and decided to close down their factories rather than allow the Union to interfere in the management of their affairs. The strike is now settled.

The Report of the St. Andrew's Society at Shanghai shows a credit balance of \$1,601.25 on general account, and \$7,312 at credit of the Charity Reserve Account. It is proposed to transfer the amount of the late Mr. Tulloch's legacy (£1,000) to the Charity Reserve Account and to carry forward the balance to next year's General Account. The membership now stands at 780.

In pursuance of his determination to weed out superfluous officials and reduce the status of those not performing adequate work, H. E. Tuan Fang is reported to have discharged no less than ninety men from the Bureau of Foreign Affairs and the Anti-opium Bureau of the Viceroyalty. It is reported that considerable consternation prevails in official circles at Tientsin over these and other possible changes.

It is understood, says the *Peking Daily News*, that after thoroughly investigating the records in the hearing of the Mears, Kiukiang, case, the British Crown Solicitor, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, has decided there is not sufficient evidence of a criminal nature against Inspector Mears to warrant a rehearing of the case before the Supreme Court at Shanghai. This is the case which led to the boycott at Kiukiang and along the Yangtsze.

It is stated that Russian emigration to the Amur region is proceeding vigorously. The number of families that emigrated thither from January to August this year was 2,755, representing 15,584 individuals, which latter figure shows an increase of 7,763, as compared with 1908.

Kao Erh Ch'ien, the Commissioner for Delimitation in Macao, has wired to the Wai-wupu stating that the Portuguese have agreed to cancel some land deeds of certain specified places, and also to deliver possession of the places known as Mo-San, Ko-Lo-Wan and others agreed upon. The Portuguese likewise agree not to interfere with the fishing junks along the Coasts. Under these circumstances, His Excellency believes that the settlement of this dispute will soon be amicably adjusted.

A Chinese report says that the Ministry of Justice has presented a memorial to the Throne, which points out that prisons in foreign countries aim at correction of evils by encouraging the reformation of the prisoners, while in China prisons are primarily intended for punishment of crimes; and the former produces the more beneficial results. The Ministry suggests, therefore, that the Chinese prison system should be improved and brought more into line with foreign systems by introducing industry and work among the prisoners.

A farewell reception to Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Williams, U. S. Consul-General at Tientsin, was held on the eve of their departure. Americans had subscribed to purchase a piece of silver plate as a souvenir for Mr. and Mrs. Williams to take away with them from Tientsin, and the presentation of this took place at the reception. The souvenir consisted of a very handsome silver tea service with tray, made in Canton, and handsomely engraved with Chinese and Buddhist designs and characters. It was subscribed for by the Americans of Tientsin and Peking. Dr. Peck made the presentation.

The death is announced at Singapore of Mr. Raphael Sassoon. He was one of the oldest Jewish residents of Singapore, and for some years was in business in partnership with Messrs. Meyer Brothers until he separated and started on his own account under the name of R. Sassoon & Co., which is now managed by his eldest son Elias with his younger brothers as assistants. In spite of his great age of 70, Mr. Sassoon had always taken an active interest in his business, and it was only recently that he had not been to town owing to his declining health. Mr. Sassoon has left a widow and a large family of sons and daughters. Jewish offices in town were closed yesterday as soon as Mr. Sassoon's death became known.

It is reported that an American company is constructing a new seaport on the Sarawak coast, and is spending thousands of pounds in the erection of godowns, machinery for preparing rubber, etc. The manager is now in Singapore in quest of a cheap hulk which he can fill with concrete and sink along the river bank as the most expeditious way of making a pier. The company expects to possess the chief town in Sarawak within a few years, and to make it the centre of the rubber and copra trade for British Borneo and the neighbouring islands. It is expected that the company will make enormous savings in freight by manufacturing its rubber before shipment, and preparations are being made for accomplishing this on a huge scale.

THE TENDERS FOR THE OPIUM FARM.

(Daily Press, October 2nd.)

The tenders submitted for the Hongkong Opium Farm, though not approximating so closely the present contract price as we were unfortunately misled into stating yesterday, are still sufficiently high to be regarded as an agreeable surprise to the Government and the taxpayers generally. When addressing the Legislative Council last March on the order received from the SECRETARY OF STATE for the closing of the divans, H.E. the GOVERNOR said he had described in a despatch the negotiations undertaken with the Farmer, and he estimated that the total abolition of the opium divans would cost the Colony upwards of five lakhs. That estimate was subsequently enlarged to six, and it would be interesting to learn the causes which have led the Farmer to so substantially reduce that estimate. The contract is to be for three years, and each year there is a reduction of one tenth in the amount of the opium coming from India to China. Consequently the price of opium at the Indian auctions is rising as the supply diminishes, and it follows that the retail price in China must rise too. The natural tendency of high prices is to restrict consumption, and the capitalists bidding for the farm would be sure to take that important consideration into account when entering into a contract for a period of three years. When we bear in mind also that an Ordinance was passed last year by which the Farmer is prohibited from exporting opium to China, it might be supposed that these factors alone would be sufficient to account for a loss of \$25,000 a month, which represents a consumption reduced by three hundred chests a year. The opium taken out of bond by the Farmer last year was 934 chests, including 113 chests of Chinese opium. Not since 1903, however, had the Farmer withdrawn so much, the figures being 725 chests in 1904; 858 in 1905; 497 in 1906 and 725 in 1907. The low figures in 1904 and 1906 were due to financial embarrassments of the Farmer in those years, caused by the fact that he had tendered for a larger payment than the Monopoly could afford. The payment which stood at \$2,041,940 in 1905 and 1906 fell in the next contract (March 1907) to \$1,452,000. For the new contract the highest tender is \$1,185,000—a drop of \$267,000.

When we take into account the factors we have already mentioned as tending to a reduction in the Farmer's business, and add to these a possible further loss due to the activities of anti-opium organisations, a loss of \$25,000 a month does not seem to err on the side of exaggeration; rather does it leave room for the suggestion that the bidders for the farm cannot be counting on any considerable reduction directly resulting from the total abolition of opium divans. When the SECRETARY OF STATE telegraphed his order to the Colonial Government to take measures to close the whole of the divans in the Colony, we ventured to express the opinion that this would have the effect, not of materially diminishing the consumption of opium in the Colony, but of driving the vice into the homes of the people. When, however, H.E. the GOVERNOR, after discussing the matter with the Opium Farmer informed the SECRETARY OF STATE that the total abolition of opium divans was estimated to cost the Colony upwards of five lakhs, we regarded that as the final word on the subject until the new tenders were received. Now it appears there are three Chinese syndicates (including the present holders

of the Farm) who are prepared to pay for the Farm a rental which does not fall more than three lakhs a year below the present payment, while, as we have pointed out above, they have to reckon not only on the total abolition of divans, but on a reduced export trade and a prospect of a steadily reduced consumption resulting from the continually increasing price of the drug. Under the new contract the Farmer is allowed to draw from bond 900 chests a year, instead of 1,800 as formerly, but as 900 chests are well above his average drawings in the past five years, he is not likely to be hampered by any actual scarcity of the drug. It will remain to be seen whether the closing of the divans will seriously affect local sales in the long run. If they do not, the conclusion will be inevitable that the closing of the divans will have meant, what H. E. the GOVERNOR himself predicts in his memorandum, that "the evil hitherto excluded from domestic life will be introduced into the home, where women and children will probably become participators." We sincerely hope that this will not to any large extent be the consequence of the hasty and ill-considered policy which the Imperial Government has forced upon the Colony, but in our opinion the high tenders for the new farm go a long way to confirm this fear.

THE MARCH OF SCIENCE.

(Daily Press, October 4th.)

Some sixty years ago it was claimed for the great naturalist CUVIER that if he were given a bone from some unknown animal he would be able from it alone to reconstruct the entire animal as it lived. That given an important bone of some fossil or other unknown animal, the skilled naturalist would be able to trace out its general characteristics, and place it in its natural kingdom and order had been known for fully a century, and it does not seem that CUVIER ever claimed more. CUVIER's researches into the fossil mammalia and reptiles, comparatively few up to his time having been discovered—had had the effect of showing how intimately associated was the life of long past geological time with that of the present; and so confirmed the slow-growing conviction amongst men of science that creation was not a sudden leap, but proceeded by slow and definite increments. During his lifetime he may be said to have established on firm foundations the science of Comparative Anatomy, which was a necessary prelude to DARWIN's great generalisation of the doctrine of descent with modification, which, in turn, has completely transformed the ways of thought of the world. Though an indefatigable worker, and the founder of the modern school of classification, CUVIER was little of a theorist, and did not care to come before the public like LAMARCK as the originator of any general philosophic scheme of evolution. More than the moderns, he was a believer in the possibility of reconstructing by "correlation of growth" the lost parts of animals hitherto unknown, be they fossil or recent, so that though his general conclusions were wonderfully accurate, his details were often sadly at fault when put to the test of more modern discoveries. None the less, the theory was fruitful in preparing men's minds for the reception of the fuller light thrown on the processes of evolution by the discoveries of DARWIN. If, as the teachers of the day were justified in attributing to CUVIER, his belief in the doctrine of reconstruction of an entire missing skeleton from a few fragments preserved were a possibility, it logically should be possible to a thorough

comparative anatomist, given some conceivable change of some important part of an actual skeleton—say, one or more of the cervical vertebrae—to design a "practicable" species to correspond. Doubtless the problem betimes presented itself to CUVIER, but, being continuously employed on what to one of his temperament seemed more immediately practical work was dismissed immediately. Of course, an even small change in the cervical vertebrae would indicate that the presumed animal must have a different method of seizing his food, and this would imply that the food itself was in some respects different; for instance, in a herbivore the new animal might be adapted to browsing off trees rather than cropping grass, and this would require his being placed in a different habitat. This fact again would needs modify the form and the proportions of the limbs to make them suitable for their changed life. Again, by a curious process of correlation never yet explained, and accepted by DARWIN as a natural law, experience teaches us that intentional modification of one limb or organ is always accompanied by some undesigned alteration of the rest of the skeleton; and all these, and their various consequential modifications to suit the changed habitat, would have to be worked out in detail by the suppositious species-maker to make of his designed animal a success, capable of standing the wear and tear of actual existence amidst the strife and competition of his surroundings, often directly hostile, and always closely pressing on the means of sustenance.

Such had been amongst the problems that presented themselves, at least to a few enquirers, when fifty years ago DARWIN's new theory of Natural Selection came upon them as a revelation. As the old Greek philosopher, by noting the overflow from his bath, was led into a train of thought which finally resulted in his discovery of the principle of Specific Gravity; and thereby solving the problem of the purity or the contrary of the King's crown, so the enquirer as to the possibility of designing the practicable animal was able on receiving DARWIN's explanation to cry with the philosopher *Eureka!* What was beyond the powers of the most inventive of men to satisfactorily accomplish had, he now learned, been actually worked out by nature during the ages. The process was one of continuous experiment, as the rude "dandy" of the Regency, consisting as it did of nothing more than a pair of wheels in line with a saddle fixed between, and propelled by the toes of the rider just reaching the ground, after many trials and almost as many failures, by degrees changed into that scientific toy—the bicycle, where the feet no longer touch the ground, and advantage is taken of the principle of another still more scientific toy, the Gyroscope, to produce a perfect balance. And as the making of the bicycle led to such improvements in the art of construction, by reducing weights to a minimum, the motor car in turn became practicable; and finally improvements in the motor engine rendered a flying machine conceivable, and men began to experiment on taking possession of the air. The first indeed to actually fly before the motor engine was capable of coming to his aid—poor LILIENTHAL—perished miserably just as he seemed to have achieved his triumph; but his failure so far from checking experiment, by showing what was necessary to avoid, actually promoted progress. Successors like FARMAN and LATHAM by the aid of lighter and more powerful motors found themselves able to accomplish what LILIENTHAL perished in attempting, and so the process of experiment and failure has gone

on till LATHAM having nearly accomplished his daring flight across the English Channel, within a couple of miles of the English coast, fell with his aeroplane. He was not, however, like LILIENTHAL, killed, but, warned by previous disastrous accidents, was able to float in his machine till help opportunely arrived.

Now all this bears a remarkable resemblance to the methods of Nature. Nature has, however, one enormous advantage over man in her experiments; her time is unlimited, and besides she carries out all her experiments *à l'outrance*. A good example of her methods of working is afforded in the case of the horse, whose history we can now almost read in detail from the very commencement of the Tertiaries. The first we learn of the family is the appearance of a small three-toed ungulate, scarcely larger than a diminutive chevrotaï. He evidently answered the purpose for which he was intended, because his remains are proportionably numerous. But climate and soil changed, and our proto-horse had to become modified to suit. Doubtless many of the alterations and additions which from time to time were introduced were unsuitable, and as in the case of LILIENTHAL's flying machine, the individual perished miserably; others, as BLERIOT, proved successful, and the individual for some time was at the head of his race till superseded by one better mounted. We need not here recapitulate the various stages of progress; like BLERIOT in his rivalry with LATHAM, the one who possessed the soundest and most enduring organs in the end survived. As BLERIOT succeeded in crossing the Channel where LATHAM fell into the water, our next better fitted horse succeeded in establishing himself in better and richer pastures than his predecessor, and so the race went on improving in strength of adaptability, till at last the race has culminated in a Gladiator or a Blink Bonny, who for the moment holds the championship.

It was thoughts like these, which had the individual had the knowledge or the perseverance to have pursued them to the logical end, would have enabled him to have forestalled DARWIN, that the latter owed the almost unanimous approval with which on their first promulgation his new and daring view was accepted by the more advanced scientists. Here was no mystery, but the application to a particular case of a principle which of necessity must dominate all creation. "Where did I come from," the writer remembers to have asked his nurse in a moment of infantile curiosity. "You were found," was the response, "in the Cabbage Garden." With many of the wisest of the day, the answer to the simple question, "Whence came humanity?" was practically identical. They were created. Of course, in one sense all men, as the Catechism inform us, were made; but no one consciously holds that he was not born in what is usually termed natural succession from his elders of a previous generation. In this sense DARWINISM, as it has come to be called, is quite consistent with the theory of evolution under natural conditions of experiment. Some of us turn out indeed failures, while to others is granted the privilege of enlightening succeeding generations. We know not all the reasons for the difference, but we can all understand that it does not require much interference with our ordinary processes of reasoning to reconcile our Catechismal teachings of special creation with the very evident fact that each of us has in reality come into the world by the perfectly natural process of being born. The cabbage garden view is,

in the face of facts as we know them, quite reconcileable with the more advanced view, of the ordinary processes of inheritance.

THE STATE OF TRADE.

(Daily Press, October 5th.)

When the Hon. Mr. GRESSON, as Chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, addressed the half-yearly meeting of shareholders a month ago he said in regard to the state of trade:—"We are still waiting for the long expected turn of the tide. It cannot be said that trade in the Far East is yet in a flourishing condition, but there is promise of improvement in some directions, and I see no cause for taking a pessimistic view. On the contrary, news from India of the climatic conditions, upon which, particularly in that country, so much depends, is favourable; silk crops in both China and Japan are reported to be well up to, if not above, the average; and new life has been infused into the Straits Settlements by the success attending the cultivation of rubber, a product which bids fair to become a valuable and, I hope, a permanent addition to the exports of that region. These factors must all have a beneficial effect on the import trade which has been in a more or less depressed state for a long time past, and, needless to say, any improvement will be welcomed by all who are interested in Eastern commerce." The tone of the Eastern markets is distinctly more hopeful to-day than it was a month ago, and confidence is felt that the tide is at length on the turn. We learn of an unprecedented rice crop in Japan; in China the crops are reported to be no less promising, while the reports from India since the end of the monsoon predict bumper harvests in all parts of the country. A month ago it was expected that the crops of the United States this year would be of the value of something like 400 millions sterling, and it is obvious that this factor must have a highly stimulating effect on the general commercial and industrial position. The monetary position is said to be satisfactory, and a feeling of quiet confidence has prevailed. But the news we publish to-day is likely to have a very disturbing effect, for the prosperity of the United States is so important an element in international trade. REUTER informs us to-day that the total closing of the Southern cotton mills is contemplated, owing to the dearth of raw cotton. Presumably this results from a failure of the crop in Texas, where much deterioration was feared owing to protracted drought. A recent cotton report stated, however, that "full crops are probable in Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas, but these are just the States where the holding power of the planters is strongest, and where their interests are most consolidated; whilst Texas, where the crop is short, is just the State where the farmer acts most independently." The action threatened by the Southern millowners may have upon the planters the effect which the foregoing extract suggests is desired, but the situation will create a good deal of anxiety, and news of the developments will be eagerly awaited. When we turn from America to England it is our pleasure to note that the Board of Trade Returns of the external trade of the United Kingdom have recently been more satisfactory than for a long time past. The July returns, which are the latest received, recorded an advance in exports of £1,782,000, or 5.2 per cent., while the imports showed an

improvement of £3,548,000 or over 7.6 per cent. The returns for the first seven months of the year show, as compared with last year, an increase of £6,899,559 in imports and a decrease of £11,277,530 in exports of British goods. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise, however, had increased by £8,316,140, so that on the whole there was an improvement of over four millions sterling in the total for the seven months. July was the first time for many months that the Board of Trade returns had shown a marked advance both in imports and exports, and we note in the Indian papers a telegram to the effect that the improvement was well maintained in the month of August. It is interesting to note that Textiles, after their somewhat protracted period of depression, showed great improvement in July. Of the increase in the exports, cotton yarns and fabrics accounted for £523,717, woollen yarns and fabrics for £374,633, silk for £25,036 and other textile goods for £245,250. How far the crisis in the weaving trade in the United States, reported in to-day's telegrams, will affect the recovery of the world's trade it is difficult at the moment to say, and perhaps it is wise not to attempt to prophesy on the subject until fuller information of the crisis comes to hand.

YUAN SHI-KAI.

(Daily Press, October 6th.)

Rumours have for some time been prevalent of the recall to office of YUAN SHI-KAI. In view of the intense distaste with which he was viewed by the Imperial Family, and more especially by the present EMPRESS DOWAGER, who has always attributed to him the greatest part of the indignities to which the late EMPEROR had to submit, it seemed in the least degree unlikely that the REGENT would agree to his recall. While explaining the causes that led to the dismissal of YUAN, we took care to avoid using towards him the injurious language employed by some of our contemporaries. YUAN is in many respects an able man, and possessed to a larger extent than most Chinese officials of the day of the power of administration; and there is no doubt, in the last days of the late EMPRESS REGENT, he did much to restore the damaged reputation of China. Still, withal, and that is possibly the worst to be said of him, he was above all things an opportunist, and so was often led into courses which a man of higher standards of duty would have indignantly disclaimed. The absurd theory that he in any way represented the Chinese element as opposed to the Manchu has apparently died a natural death; and the only ground for advising his recall by the present REGENT has been the plea that he above the other Ministers of the Court had an intelligent acquaintance with foreign affairs, and could be trusted to guide the State in the present rather complicated position of affairs. The position is a characteristic illustration of the ineptness of the present generation of Chinese statesmen. Since the rise of YUAN SHI-KAI, not a single official has proved himself capable of grasping the situation, which has been continually becoming more involved; and this in spite of the fact that the REGENT himself has shown every disposition to encourage men of ability to come to the front. To his enemies, of whom he had made many, YUAN's chief characteristic was an over-reaching ambition, and he was even accused of aiming at the Throne. There does not seem on a review of the circum-

stances to have been any, even plausible, foundation for the charge; but it is quite possible, as has happened in other cases, that the suspicion has engendered the thought. It has seldom happened in the long history of China that a Minister actually in office has raised the standard of revolt; and it is far from likely that such thoughts entered into YUAN's mind till they were suggested by those who were envious of his rapid promotion.

On the other hand, there is no evidence that YUAN ever strove to make use of his influence with the late DOWAGER T'SE HI to ameliorate the position of the EMPEROR; and it was this that determined the present REGENT, on his assuming the reins of Government, to dismiss him with all outward signs of disgrace. Still, it must be remembered that, contrary to all Oriental precedent, PRINCE CHUN did not inflict any punishment, personal or otherwise, on YUAN SHI-KAI, but treated him exactly as any European Minister who had lost the confidence of his ruler is accustomed to be treated. As a rule it is inadvisable that a Minister who has been dismissed from office under such peculiar circumstances as occurred in this case should be re-employed; and all the more so that the reasons were strictly of a personal nature. YUAN must have felt keenly his supersession, and as, after all, he is but human, it is to be expected that he will continue to bear animosity against the head of the State. Altogether it seems impossible that the two, the REGENT and his dismissed Minister, should ever be so far reconciled as to pull together for the advantage of the Empire, the more especially as the coming back of the Minister, however others may be disposed to look on it, can scarcely, by himself at least, be considered other than a personal victory over the REGENT. There is, besides, another element which, under the Chinese constitution cannot be ignored. The present EMPRESS DOWAGER is an element in the Government which, following immemorial precedent, cannot be ignored; as widow of the late EMPEROR she is the legal guardian of the child who now represents him. We know little of her, and opinions differ as to her capacity for undertaking any important rôle in the State; the one thing that is certainly known of her is, that looking upon YUAN as the agent of the late DOWAGER in the maltreatment of her husband, she is permeated by the most intense hatred for him. However little the REGENT may personally think of her abilities, he has to consult her in all affairs regarding the personality of the new EMPEROR, even though he happens to be his son, so that although personally he might succeed in working harmoniously with YUAN, the presence of the DOWAGER EMPRESS would always act as a powerful element of disorder about affairs where concord is most desirable. We may conceive a similar case had the KAISER WILLIAM II. been compelled by a powerful combination of officials to recall the late PRINCE BISMARCK after his dramatic dismissal. Each measure of State could not have failed to be a subject of dispute between EMPEROR and MINISTER till one or other had succeeded in reducing to insignificance the other. Then YUAN would have returned to office as a second "Mayor of the Palace." All these things are independent of the personal abilities of YUAN himself. We have always been willing to allow that individually YUAN has been all round the ablest of China's Ministers, and this whether we look to his management of home or foreign affairs. No man but he could probably have brought about the recovery

of Government in China after the events of 1900; and no man could better have calmed the apprehensions of the foreign Powers as to the future of China. Whatever his attitude towards Reform generally, it was he who first rendered it possible, and it is not unlikely that had he continued in office the task of the REGENT would have been much simplified; so far we are willing to agree with the would-be advisers of the Regency. To restore to power a Minister dismissed in the manner in which YUAN was dismissed is at the best a dangerous experiment, and can only be successful with men of the loftiest moral character. As we have said above, YUAN was above all things an opportunist, and opportunism and political morality of the highest type are hardly consistent. We hope for the sake of China, and of the REGENT, who has up to this proved himself not only an intelligent, but a well-meaning ruler, and whose chief deficiency has been a want of initiative power under extremely difficult circumstances, that he will be able to introduce some semblance of order into his at present very ill-regulated household, and will be able to replace the veteran CHANG CHI-TUNG (whose death was announced after these lines had been written) by someone of the present generation. CHANG CHI-TUNG has all through life borne the character of a loyal and upright Minister, against whom not the most censorious has been able to establish any charge of peculation or unworthy motive. On the other hand, it is well to remember that CHANG has been by no means uniformly successful as an administrator, and has more than once stood in the way of useful measures. Altogether it is not going too far to say that some of the failures charged to the Regency, have in all probability to be laid at the door of the aged statesman, so that his retirement, by throwing more responsibility on the younger Ministers, may in the long run prove advantageous to the administration. All through life old CHANG has been an ardent reformer, but it may be questioned whether the reforms most favoured are those most called for. The most needed, but at the same time difficult, and these requiring the most courage and skill to bring to a successful issue, are those connected with the finances of the Empire: these can only be carried out by an individual entrusted with almost despotic power. No representative assembly that China can call together is equal to the gigantic task; till finance is on a sound basis representative government can be nothing better than a delusion and a snare. Meanwhile, under the specious plea of introducing representative forms, the habit of tendering unasked-for advice, which has been too easily accepted by the Government of the REGENT, has been instrumental in leading it into difficulties with foreign Powers. We may instance the growing tendency of instituting boycotts, especially affected by the so-called "Self-Government Society of Canton" and other kindred institutions, going far to demoralise the whole Empire; while totally irresponsible associations, like that of the *li kin* farmers in most of the provinces, are in default of any regular financial government openly setting the Administration of the Regency at defiance. Probably the only measure capable of restoring good government is the entire abolition, lock, stock, and barrel, of the system. Attempt at reforming or checking it, can only result in the aggravation of the evil.

Bangkok has gone into mourning for the death of H.R.H. Prince Uraphongs, the youngest son of the King of Siam. Death was due to exhaustion from peritonitis.

THE OPIUM QUESTION IN THE STRAITS.

(Daily Press, October 7th.)

Some interesting comments on the opium question as it affects the Straits Settlements were made by H. E. Sir JOHN ANDERSON, the Governor, in the course of his statement on the Budget, which was introduced at last week's meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony, and in view of the fact that public interest in Hongkong is just now stimulated in this question by the Government's acceptance of a tender for carrying on the Farm in this Colony for the next three years, a reference to certain aspects of the question in the Straits Settlements will not be without interest here. When commenting a few days ago on the unexpectedly high tenders received for the Farm, having regard to the fact that the whole of the opium-smoking divans in the Colony are to be closed next March, we presented the view, which many people had held, that the steadily increasing price of opium combined with the progress of the total abstinence movement, might in themselves have been regarded as factors calculated to reduce the business to the extent indicated by the tenders. Instead of the closing of the opium divans resulting in a loss of six lakhs per annum, as the Government had all along been led to expect, the new contract which has been made ensures for the next three years a rental representing a loss on the present revenue of less than 2½ lakhs per annum. In the Straits Settlements, on the recommendation of the Straits Opium Commission, the Government has decided to take into its own hands the preparation and sale of opium, with the idea that it will "place the Government in a stronger position to bring about such a gradual reduction of the smoking of opium as is demanded by public opinion." The action taken by the Hongkong Government will be equally as effective in that direction, but the experiment in the Straits will be watched in Hongkong with much interest, for the view which obtains here, as the result of experience of both systems, is that, independently of revenue, the Farm has been the most effective means of restricting and controlling the traffic. How that object is achieved under the farm system is well stated in the interesting memorandum on the subject prepared some months ago by HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR. For the moment, however, it is the financial aspect of the question that interests us, and we note the statement that the Straits Government "is well aware that the opium revenue, whether or not the farm system is adhered to, is certain to decline from year to year, both from decreasing consumption and increase in the price of the raw material." HIS EXCELLENCY remarked that the experience of the last six years has proved that, even with the farm system, the opium revenue had ceased to be that certain, easy, and expanding source which it had been in the past. "It has been a constant and continuous clamour for reductions or postponement of payments with threats of bankruptcy and widespread ruin among the Chinese population." The spread of the anti-opium movement and the attitude towards opium smoking of the leaders of the Chinese community, HIS EXCELLENCY added, have undoubtedly led to a progressive diminution in the consumption of opium. "Whatever the Government may do, it is certain that this diminishing tendency will continue." It would be interesting to have accurate information as to the influence of anti-opium propaganda in Hongkong, apart from the

Government's action. It is a subject about which we hear nothing whatever, nor have we observed that the leaders of Chinese opinion in the Colony are displaying any activity in this direction. The fact of there having been such keen competition for the privilege—and profit—of carrying on the Farm for the next three years argues very little fear of such factors as these greatly influencing the demand for the drug. We turn now to another aspect of the question. From the first we have regarded the closing of the public divans for opium smoking as an unwise method of rapidly reaching the end in view, especially in the British colonies. It was not difficult to foresee that the main result would be to drive the evil into the homes of the people, and, moreover, assist the development of worse evils. In the Straits Settlements, as well as in China, it has been observed that the habit of opium smoking is being displaced by "the still more disastrous habit of opium swallowing and morphia injection." Very likely the tendency will become as noticeable in Hongkong when all the divans are closed. We note that the Government of the Straits Settlements proposes to "especially guard as far as possible" against this change of habit. This can only mean that more drastic measures will have to be taken than is possible under the farm system, for there is no way of effectually preventing this use of the drug short of placing the most stringent restrictions upon the sale both of morphia and opium. The Straits Settlements are very desirous of not offending China over this opium question. "We are indebted to China," says the GOVERNOR, "for the free influx of immigrants which it has always allowed us, and which, if it has enabled many individual Chinamen to better their condition, has at the same time proved the making of this place. Unless we are prepared to second, so far as our Chinese population is concerned, the efforts of China, we cannot expect that this free immigration will be allowed to continue unrestricted. Active discouragement of emigration to the Peninsula by China, would prove disastrous to us, and apart, therefore, from any moral consideration or obligation, self-preservation demands that we shall fall into line with China and the rest of the world in this matter." That is, of course, a very important consideration for the Straits, but there are no indications that China is contemplating any steps of the nature suggested, nor do we imagine she is likely to do so until she has fulfilled her promise to put an entire stop to the cultivation of the poppy in China, and allowed time for Great Britain to fulfil hers to stop the export from India. When that time arrives—and there are only seven or eight years to wait—there will be an end of the opium question. In the circumstances the closing of divans and all other steps of the kind seem to be a waste of effort, productive of more harm than good.

The Shanghai papers record the death of Captain A. E. Flagg, of the Indo-China steamer *Kut-wo*. Captain Flagg was seized with cholera at Anking, and when the *Kut-wo* had reached Wuhu he passed away. The remains were buried at Wuhu. Captain Flagg, who was an American citizen, was, the *N.-C. Daily News* says, one of the best known and, it may well be said, one of the most popular of the captains on the Yangtze. He first entered the Indo-China service in 1887 as master of the *Kungwo*, and at a later period commanded the *Yuen-wo*, in the days before the *Kut-wo* was launched. The deepest sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Flagg, who had recently returned from a summer holiday at Ohfoo, and for her two daughters, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. S. H. McKean.

HONGKONG'S BUDGET FOR 1910.

(Daily Press, October 8th)

Despite its great length, the speech in which H. E. the GOVERNOR yesterday discussed the main features of the Estimates for the coming year will, we feel sure, be read by the community with close attention and absorbing interest, for it is not a mere analysis of figures but also to a large extent an explanation of matters of policy and of progress. His EXCELLENCY excused the length of his remarks at one point of the speech by saying that the presentation of the Budget is "the one occasion upon which the Government, which is entrusted with the welfare of the community, has an opportunity of giving an account of its stewardship, and of enlisting the interest of the inhabitants in the Colony in the various matters not directly connected with legislation, and which, therefore, do not ordinarily come before the Council." On that account the community welcome the occasion quite as much as His EXCELLENCY, and so far as the public is concerned there will be no cavilling, we feel sure, at the length of these explanations. We have no intention to-day of discussing the statement at any length, but merely to epitomise its main features. His EXCELLENCY said that, generally speaking, the problem of the Government this year has been to raise sufficient revenue, or to decrease expenditure, to meet a deficit of eight lakhs of dollars. Of this amount five lakhs are expected from the new liquor dues, and one from the new stamp duties, while the remaining two are provided partly by retrenchments in expenditure and partly by anticipated increase in the existing sources of revenue. This deficit of eight lakhs, it is to be noted, includes the full loss of opium revenue, as His EXCELLENCY said he had not yet been able to ascertain what contribution towards this sum the Imperial Government are prepared to make. There are two extraordinary items of revenue in the Estimates, these being a contribution promised by the Imperial Government of half the loss on the postal agencies, estimated at \$27,000, and the receipts from a half year's working of the Kowloon-Canton railway, which are put at only \$20,000. His EXCELLENCY had an interesting statement to make on the subject of the postal agencies, a statement which we to some extent anticipated by our references a few days ago to the negotiations which have recently been in progress between the Government and the British community at Shanghai, with a view to getting that community to bear a quarter of the loss on the maintenance of the agency at that port. The subject has been under consideration by the Home authorities for eighteen months, with the result that the Imperial Treasury has come to recognise its responsibility in the matter to the extent of undertaking to bear half the loss. Moreover, the subject of the military contribution has been raised in connection with the postal agency question, for, as we pointed out a few days ago, although the postal revenue is insufficient to cover the expenditure, this Colony has to pay a military contribution of 20 per cent. on actual revenue. Apart from the military contribution, the loss on the Shanghai British Post Office is \$27,200; but including the military contribution it amounts to \$40,440. The community will welcome the announcement made by His EXCELLENCY yesterday that the Secretary of State is appointing a Commission to inquire into the whole question of the military contribution, for the basis of the contribution is entirely wrong, as H. E.

the GOVERNOR recognised in, we think, the first Budget statement he was called upon to make in the Colony. The more revenue we have to raise to meet increasing expenditure, the more we have to pay as military contribution, and thus the military contribution bears hardest upon the Colony when its financial burdens are greatest. In 1910 we pay a lakh more than this year. Another interesting feature of the Budget statement is the defence it makes of the Government's policy in regard to the subsidiary coinage question. In the course of this defence, His EXCELLENCY quoted a statement made on this subject by Mr. SHEWAN at the last meeting of shareholders of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., and he replied to it by quoting from a letter written by Mr. D. R. LAW, the Manager of Messrs. BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE, who are working in agreement with the Steamboat Co. The public will appreciate the irony of the situation, which is capped by the GOVERNOR's remark—"My friend Mr. LAW can debate the particular facts at issue with my friend Mr. SHEWAN." As for the Government's attitude on the subsidiary coinage question, His EXCELLENCY made it quite clear that it had not been one of apathy or indifference. He was watching, he said, the signs of the times, and was ready at any moment to adopt such a course as may recommend itself and meet with the approval of the merchants and bankers, taking into due consideration the political issues involved, the cost to the taxpayer and the effect on trade as a whole and not merely on one company. Apart from these questions the statement appears to contain little of a highly contentious character. His EXCELLENCY, in concluding his address, expressed the opinion that the difficulties have been fairly met for the coming year, and added that he was in hopes that with returning prosperity and an increase in the ordinary revenue which accompanies prosperity, we may be able in 1911 to meet the heavy liabilities on account of interest and sinking fund without any further increase of taxation. We sincerely hope that when the time arrives for the preparation of the Budget for 1911, His EXCELLENCY's optimism will be justified.

RETRENCHMENT.

(Daily Press, October 9th.)

Among the papers laid upon the table of the Legislative Council on Thursday was one giving a summary of the recommendations made by the Retrenchment Committee, with the decision of the GOVERNOR thereon. A saving of close upon a lakh of dollars has been effected in the establishment charges. In the Sanitary Department the reductions amount to about \$30,000; in the Police and Prison Departments about \$10,000 each; in the Medical Department, \$12,000; on the Volunteer Corps, \$4,000; Post Office, \$4,000; on Miscellaneous Services (which includes telegrams sent and received by Government, and transport) there is a reduction of \$7,000; and so on. No item of expenditure has been too insignificant for consideration; where ten dollars a year can be saved, where there was an unnecessary coolie employed at seven dollars a month, the Committee made a recommendation to that effect. In the higher branches of the service there does not seem to have been as much pruning as possibly was expected by many people, who see, for instance, that two principal officers of the Public Works Department may be absent from the Colony at the same time on long leave, and yet the work goes on the same; that the Postmaster-General

is able to combine with his own duties those of Colonial Treasurer; and that certain officials in other Departments are able to do their own work and undertake the duties of other posts as well. It gives the public the impression that some of the administrative departments are overstaffed with highly-paid officers. The Colonial Leave Regulations are responsible for this state of things, but we have no doubt that the list of officers receiving "salaries" was as carefully scrutinised as were the wages lists of coolies and office boys and the whole of the disbursements on account. We note, for instance, that the Committee wished to reduce the salary of the Attorney-General from £1,500 to £1,000 per annum and allow this officer the privilege of private practice, but this recommendation was not approved for strong reasons of policy. The public, we think, will not quarrel with that decision. In the case of the Local Auditor, the Committee recommended that either the present system of allowing this officer to audit the accounts of the Naval Yard and of Weihaiwei be abolished, or, if continued, that the fees in respect of such work should be credited to the Colonial Government. The salary attaching to the post of Local Auditor is £650, rising by annual increments of £20 to £800, and the officer receives in addition a fee of £100 for auditing the accounts of the Naval Yard and £50 for auditing those of Weihaiwei. It is not clear in the published summary how the Committee are to reduce expenditure if this outside work is abolished. Perhaps it is hoped rather that the fees may go in reduction of the salary payable by the Colonial Government. The recommendation has been forwarded to the Secretary of State, but the decision, so far, at least, as it affects the present holder of the appointment, must, of course, be governed by the terms of his contract of service, which presumably allows, if it does not actually require, him to undertake this work. Another recommendation made by the Committee was a reduction of one Medical Officer in the Medical Staff, but this was not approved, as if such a reduction were made it would not be possible to give effect to the Colonial Leave Regulations, without calling in private practitioners, for whose services no regular vote is provided. It would, we presume, be easy enough to provide a regular vote if that was the only obstacle to the carrying out of the recommendation; but another reason for not adopting it is that it is being strongly urged by both the Principal Civil Medical Officer and his *locum tenens* that an increase in the staff is required for the proper supervision of the New Territories and the railway. A rather surprising recommendation was that fees should be charged in the hospitals for operations and for midwifery cases, and what is still more surprising, albeit agreeably so, is that the medical officers unanimously opposed this proposal on the ground that the Hospital charges are already high enough, and no such charges are made in other Colonies. Had the medical officers not succeeded in getting this recommendation vetoed, it would certainly have evoked strong public protest, for the existing charges are already fully as much or more than the majority of those who go into the public hospitals can afford. Of the one hundred and sixty odd recommendations made by the Committee only about twenty failed to secure the GOVERNOR's approval. It would evidently not be a bad thing to appoint a Retrenchment Committee every four or five years.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

"The moon hath raised her lamp on high." Consequently after-dinner picnics have been the order of the evening during the past week.

The event of the week was, of course, the arrival of Lord Kitchener, who seemed to have a pretty good time. Nobody would have thought that the gallant Field Marshal possessed a hobby outside of his military duties, but Hongkong has discovered that he is a collector of Chinese porcelain and a connoisseur to boot, as his experiences in the curio shops proved. It is difficult to imagine the hero of Omdurman in such a rôle.

Lord Kitchener, when he paid his surprise visit to the Rajputs quarters, commented on the uniform whiteness of the bedsheets possessed by the soldiers. Isn't a white bedsheet something of a luxury? I doubt if the Tommies on the Hongkong side are provided with white bedsheets.

There are many uses for the "boy," but a new one is suggested on a notice in the Hongkong Cricket Club. Therein members are requested to *initial the book with the boy*. Wouldn't a pen or a pencil suit the purpose better? If the boy is to be used in that manner must he be sharp?

"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature?" is a Biblical query which has oft been quoted, and considerable importance attached to it, as it is one of the reported utterances of the Founder of Christianity. Apparently the Japanese are not greatly impressed by it, as they are, if newspaper accounts be true, taking thought to add to their stature. Those who can afford it have enlarged their scale of diet to include meat, and it is hoped that this dietary will improve the physique of the people, the relative smallness of the Japanese being ascribed to the fact that they are essentially a rice and fish eating race. The subject is attracting some attention at home just now owing to the visit of some Japanese who are buying cattle to be imported into Japan in order to improve the breeds there and in anticipation of the greater demand for beef. The vegetarians in Britain are disgusted that the Japanese should depart from their almost vegetarian dietary, but we who know the men in the Land of the Rising Sun are aware of the fact that they realise, as much as anybody else, what is good for them and what isn't.

Various explanations have been offered for the unexpectedly high tenders for the Opium Farm, but it seems to me the reason is not far to seek. Trade in the Colony is improving. In practically every department the upward tendency is experienced, and it is not unnatural to suppose that those who have contracted the opium habit will have more money to spend than they have had during the last year or two.

Some inquisitive folks want to know—now that the loss on opium is not so great as was expected—if the liquor duties will be decreased? "I hae ma doots."

I am not the only one who has marvelled at the farce of employing Indian watchmen to sleep on premises. The business men of this Colony surely don't engage those usurious sons of Ind from philanthropic motives, or because they believe that they are useful. Some of them, I admit might have been ornamental at one time when their turbans were clean, but most of them have got beyond that stage. It may be that our taipans are so conservative that they cannot break away from "olo custom," but whatever the explanation, there seems little reason for perpetuating the farce as we know it.

Only the other day two Indian watchmen were fined by the Magistrate for having been found asleep at their posts. The offence, I suppose, was in being found asleep. They have probably slumbered nightly for quite a long time, as most of them do, but somebody official was inconsiderate enough to come along before they wakened. If watchmen are to be retained, why shouldn't they do as before? In former years they had to beat a gong every hour to

indicate the time and incidentally to keep themselves awake. We can recall how watchmen at home used to call out the hour and the state of the weather. It gave a feeling of confidence to the community to know that their guardians were doing their duty, and though I have no wish to add to the street noises, I think some plan might be devised for making watchmen of some use.

Apropos of the foregoing, I note that a contributor to the *Foochow Echo* is compiling a Dictionary of Names in Common Use in China. This is the first instalment:—

"Boy." The senior male domestic, or butler in the family, generally elderly and toothless. Never works, and is most hospitable and entertaining during master's absence. His great affection for his employer makes him an unhappy man should he be deprived of a daily squeeze.

Learn Boy. The smart domestic and "willing horse," usually of more use and reliability than any other servant.

House-coolie. The oil drinker and bottle-eater. A man paid to sweep dust under the sofas and cupboards, and breed spiders.

Cook. The head ornament of the kitchen, only wakes when provisions arrive, from which he takes several pieces as samples.

Cook No. II. The dirty apprentice who does the cooking.

Gardener. Another kitchen ornament rarely seen out of doors.

Watchman. A man employed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. to sleep in the kitchen.

Washerman. The domestic employed to do other people's washing.

Chair coolie. An animal fond of chow, smoking and cards. Of little use, and has a cordial dislike for work.

Amah. Flightily if young, and the discord of the domestic-quarters if elderly.

Policeman. A servant of the general community paid to salute gentlemen, fly kites, and present petitions on every seasonable and unseasonable opportunity.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

For being in possession of eleven taels of opium a Chinese was on Oct. 6th fined \$50.

The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, Mrs. May and family returned to the Colony on the 7th inst.

Mr. J. W. Jamieson, the new British Consul-General for Canton, arrived in Hongkong on the 1st inst. by the *Delta*.

Mr. R. M. Dyer, the new manager of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, returned to the Colony on the 1st inst.

Mr. A. J. Mackie, interpreter at the Magistracy, has been transferred to the Supreme Court, where he commences duty to-day.

The only case of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week was one imported Japanese case of enteric fever. The case was fatal.

The banns are published of the wedding arranged between Mr. J. H. W. Armstrong and Miss Dora Humphreys, daughter of Mr. W. G. Humphreys, of Hongkong.

The proprietor of the Owl Grill Room was fined \$200 at the Magistracy for keeping a public bar while he only held an adjunct licence.

Six months' hard labour was the punishment meted out at the Magistracy on Oct. 6 to a man found guilty of decoying two men into the Colony for the purposes of immigration.

It has become a common trick to steal the rubber tyres from first-class rickshas. As the value is somewhere about \$20 each the game is fairly profitable when successful.

The police have been informed by Mr. F. Arnold, agent for the Pathe Freres in Hongkong, that he lost his pocket book containing \$210 in money and a cheque for \$30. He left it in the lavatory at Weissmann's.

Thirty-two chair bearers were charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Oct. 1st with causing obstruction by rushing fares in various thoroughfares in the city. The defendants were convicted, and a fine of \$3 was imposed on the bearers of each chair.

Another batch of gamblers appeared at the Magistracy on Oct. 7th. The leaders on this occasion were fined \$40 each and the remainder \$2 each.

Mr. Funatsu, Japanese Consul in Hongkong, is in receipt of a telegram from the Foreign Office, Tokyo, stating that the Hongkong Consulate has been raised to the dignity of a Consulate-General from October 1.

Two Chinese companies—the Kwong Kee Ferry Company and the Kwong Shun Steamboat Company were summoned at the Magistracy yesterday for not complying with the Companies Act in failing to file returns of shareholders. The hearing was adjourned *sine die*.

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 5 of 1909, entitled—An Ordinance to demonetize Postage Stamps bearing the Head of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria; and to Ordinance No. 18 of 1909, entitled—An Ordinance to amend the Interpretation Amendment Ordinance, 1908.

It is announced that a marriage arranged between Dr. J. H. Sanders, J.P., medical superintendent of the Matilda Hospital, Hongkong, eldest son of James Sanders, Esq., J.P., of South Molton, Devonshire, and Mary Beatrice, fourth daughter of W. H. Allen, Esq., of Bromham House, Bedfordshire, and Dean's-yard, Westminster Abbey, will take place at St. Owen's Church, Bromham, Bedfordshire, on Oct. 6.

An adjunct licence for the Vienna Café at No. 34, Queen's Road Central, was granted by the Justices of the Peace on Oct. 4 to Julius Philipp Sommer. Mr. F. A. Hazeland presided at the meeting of the Justices, and there were also present the Captain Superintendent of Police, Messrs. R. H. A. Craig, G. H. Wakeman, C. A. D. Melbourne, P. P. J. Wodehouse, H. N. Fleming, J. B. Wood, A. H. Ough, Dr. W. B. Moore, Messrs. G. A. Woodcock and C. S. Gubbay.

His Honour the Chief Justice has, by commissions signed by him, appointed Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, Deputy-Registrar and Appraiser of the Supreme Court, to be a commissioner to administer oaths and take declarations, affirmations and attestations of honour in the Court, and also to be a commissioner for taking the acknowledgments by married women of the deeds to be executed by them, so long as he shall hold his said office. He has also appointed Mr. G. A. Woodcock, Magistrate's clerk, to be Sub-commissioner to administer oaths and take declarations and attestations of honour in the supreme Court.

At the Magistracy on Oct. 4th Inspector Macdonald prosecuted for larceny a coolie, who was found some distance from the Kowloon Railway with a charge of dynamite in his pocket. The coolie told Mr. Wood that the dynamite belonged to the railway, but he was not aware of its being in his pocket, and his Worship said he could not convict on that evidence. The charge was then amended to being in unlawful possession. Mr. Wood held that there was no proof that the dynamite belonged to the Railway and discharged the prisoner. Inspector Macdonald then handed the dynamite to the prisoner, but the Magistrate would not allow that, and the dynamite had to remain in the possession of the police.

A smart recovery of a watch and chain by the police was disclosed in a case heard at the Magistracy on Oct. 5. A Chinese returned from Annam had gone down to Shekoutsui the other evening and when he returned, after having dined well, to his boarding house he went to bed, after having hung up his vest containing his watch and chain near the bed. His friend came in later and hung up his vest beside the other and went upstairs for a smoke. When he came down he saw that the watch and chain were missing. He gave the alarm and next day the matter was reported to the police. On Sunday a man took the watch and chain to a pawnbroker's, but becoming alarmed at the questions of the pawnbroker he decamped, leaving the articles. The pawnbroker took the watch and chain to the police, who accompanied the man to the boarding house, where the pawnbroker discovered the man who left the watch and chain with him. He blamed it on another, and an arrest was made.

TYPHOON WEATHER.

EXPERIENCES OF EXCURSIONISTS.

The typhoon which was approaching the Colony passed to the south on Oct. 4th, but the black cone still remained suspended, and with the exception of launches, the harbour remained clear of small craft. The weather interfered with the running of the smaller steamers, both Sunday night's and Monday morning's Macao steamers belonging to the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company being detained.

One small vessel from Macao succeeded in reaching port on time, but the skippers of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Co.'s line had apparently decided to take no risks. The s.s. *Heungshan* left Macao as usual at seven o'clock on Sunday evening with a good number of passengers, and continued on her voyage for about three-quarters of an hour. Then the threatening state of the weather decided the captain to put back, and the vessel was anchored under the lee of Malchau Island, near the Macao lighthouse, until the following morning. It appears that the comrades of the vessel had only provided provisions and refreshments for the day's trip, for many of the passengers complained of being unable to get food and drink, even minerals and water being used up before the night was spent. Others again were unable to get sleeping accommodation, even chairs being at a premium. It was a very forlorn-looking party of excursionists that landed from the boat yesterday morning, and hastened to satisfy the cravings of the inner man.

The s.s. *Sui Tai*, which was due in port at 11.30 a.m. yesterday, remained at Macao, the captain deciding not to attempt the trip owing to the threatening state of the weather. Should more favourable conditions prevail to-day, the belated vessel is expected to leave for Hongkong at 7 a.m. Mr. Justice Gompertz was expected to return to the Colony by the *Sui Tai* yesterday, and to decide two Supreme Court cases which he had fixed for half-past eleven o'clock. Owing to his non-arrival, however, the hearing of the cases was postponed.

On Monday morning the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. issued an express stating that there would be no afternoon steamer to or from Macao on that day owing to the inclement weather.

When darkness set in last night the wind was still high, and the hoisting of the green, red, green vertical lights on H.M.S. *Tamar*, at the Harbour Office, and at the Water Police Station, Kowloon, reminded seamen and shore residents that a typhoon was within 300 miles of the Colony.

STEAMER "PHRANANG" IN A TYPHOON.

On Oct. 6th the German steamer *Phranang*, carrying 500 Chinese passengers and a cargo of rice and wood, arrived in port in a very dismantled condition, having encountered a typhoon when within two hundred odd miles of the Colony. The *Phranang*, which is commanded by Captain F. von Mangelsdorff, left Bangkok on the 27th ultimo and had a smooth voyage until Sunday night. Just before midnight the weather began to freshen and the sea to rise, while the gradual falling of the barometer indicated nasty weather ahead.

The glass continued to fall until at latitude 19.20 N. and longitude 113.20 E. it reached the remarkably low figure of 27.95. This was at about eight o'clock on Monday morning, and the *Phranang* was speedily prepared to meet the gale which was not long in overtaking her. As the seas began to grow and the wind to increase the passengers were battened down and everything above board made secure. Then the typhoon overtook the vessel, the officers of which state that they were very near the centre of the storm.

The *Phranang* was sent full speed ahead in the teeth of the gale, the wind travelling at hurricane force while mountainous seas broke over the vessel. Lifeboats which were securely fastened down were torn from their fastenings, lifted high in the air one moment and the next hurled down on the deck and stove in. Then mast stays were torn away, the glass in the skylights was broken and the crew had to secure these with canvas to prevent the seas flooding the ship.

The next mishap was to the bridge, the iron bars which supported it being torn from their fastenings like so many matches. Then the massive funnel of the steamer was torn bodily

from the deck, and some idea of the force and strength of the wind can be gained from the fact that the big screws in the shackles to which the wire supporting the funnel was attached, were snapped in two. The funnel was jammed fast between a ventilator and a lifeboat davit, the latter piercing it, and were it not for this catch it would in all probability have gone overboard. The loss of the funnel necessitated a slackening of speed, as otherwise the inmates of the engine-room would have been smoked out. The speed was accordingly altered to four knots, and the vessel began to drift to the east.

Fortunately, however, at this juncture the wind abated somewhat, and the crew lost no time in replacing the funnel. The task was a difficult one having regard to the rough sea and the still strong wind, but eventually it was accomplished, and as by this time the typhoon had passed, the vessel continued on her voyage without further mishap. There were no accidents to the crew, and there was no panic among the passengers, who remained calm and quiet throughout the gale. The Chief Officer, who supplied our representative with this story, was warm in his praises of the staunch little ship, which he thought behaved admirably. The crew had also done their duty manfully and deserved all credit for their coolness and courage in the face of great danger. The storm through which they had passed was a great experience, but he was not anxious to have such another.

WEDDING AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

BLANCHFLOWER—COLLINS.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised at St. John's Cathedral on Saturday afternoon in the presence of a large congregation, the contracting parties being Mr. Edward C. Blanchflower, R.N., secretary to Commodore Lyon, and Miss Philippa Constance Collins, of Melbourne, Australia.

The bride was given away by Commodore Lyon, A.D.C. She was attended by Miss Edith Haines, also of Melbourne, Australia, while the bridegroom was attended by Lieut. John P. Lander, R.N., H.M.S. *Kent*, as "best man." The bride wore a soft cream satin robe with pearl embroidered panel down the front, and a Court train trimmed with chiffon and orange blossoms. She wore a veil over her face and carried a bouquet of white flowers. The bridesmaid wore a frock of pink soft satin with pearl trimmings, yoke and undersleeves of cream chiffon, and a black hat trimmed with pink ribbon velvet and violets. She carried a bouquet of pink and white with pink streamers.

The Rev. O. N. Hughes, Naval Chaplain officiated, assisted by the Rev. F. T. Johnson Chaplain of the Cathedral. As the bridal party left the Church the naval officers present formed with their swords an arch of steel under which the happy pair passed down the aisle.

Amongst those present were His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, with Captain P. M. Taylor, A.D.C., and Captain Simson, Private Secretary, also Bishop Lander, and a large number of naval and military officers and well-known civilian residents.

A reception was afterwards held on board H.M.S. *Tamar*, and the happy couple subsequently left for Macao on H.M.S. *Janus*.

The bride's travelling dress was of white muslin trimmed with insertion, and her hat was trimmed with pale blue and pink.

An action for breach of promise of marriage came before the Court at Saigon on September 15. Particulars given in the *Opinion* show that the plaintiff, a lady well known in social circles there, lived eight years with the defendant. During that time, the defendant wrote to her several letters promising marriage. Suddenly he forsook the plaintiff, and she, at length, sued him on the strength of the correspondence, the claim being 30,000 francs' damages. The letters were produced in Court. The judgment found that defendant had deserted the plaintiff for no good reasons, and assessed the damages at 7,000 francs, with interest and costs. The defendant was then away from the Colony.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Canton, 2nd October 1909.

UNNECESSARY UNDERLINGS.

In the exercise of the strictest economy, the present Viceroy, H. E. Yuan, has issued instructions to the Yamens to dismiss all useless and unnecessary underlings.

CONSULAR WARNING.

In consequence of the recent shooting affair near Canton, Mr. H. H. Fox, the Acting Consul General, has sent round to British residents a circular requesting members of shooting parties to exercise the greatest caution when shooting over cultivated land and in the vicinity of villages. Moreover, British subjects are reminded of the obligation to provide themselves with passports when travelling in the interior beyond a radius of 13 miles from treaty ports.

A MERRY MONK.

An interesting story is told of a monk who entered the domicile of a Chinese family, and sat down to a feast with two women of the house. The festivities lasted till the early hours of the morning, and the hilarity drew the attention of a street policeman. He knocked at the door and entered the house. The frightened monk, thinking the husband had returned, tried to run away by the roof trap, but was prevented by the policeman, who took this worthy and the women into custody. He took possession of the fragments of the feast, as well as of the silk robe and the false queue of the holy man. When asked to explain the situation, the monk said he went to the house at the invitation of the women to tell their fortunes. This the inspector refused to believe and the man is still detained pending further inquiries.

5th October.

DEATH.

Colonel Yang, late of the Shameen Guards, died on Sunday morning last, at his residence. He was for many years a Commander of the Chinese force kept to protect foreigners on the Shameen. Some years ago the French Government bestowed on him the decoration of the Legion of Honour.

CONSULAR CHANGES.

Mr. J. W. Jamieson took over charge of the Consulate yesterday from Mr. H. H. Fox, who has been acting Consul-General for the last 18 months. Mr. and Mrs. Fox leave Canton to-day, and the best wishes of the British and foreign community accompany them.

THE POLICING OF SHAKEE.

Since the public degradation of the Chinese soldiers on Shakee by the Chinese authorities at the instigation of a trade guild, police regulations on this street have been anything but satisfactory. Rows are more frequent, roughs sneer and scoff at soldiers whom but lately they feared so much, and for the slightest cause they do not now hesitate to assault them. Some nights ago ruffians assaulted the Chinese police and seriously wounded two of them. No capture has yet been effected. So close as this place is to the Shameen, it will be well for the authorities to keep a watchful eye on what is happening in Shakee.

October 7th.

GREAT FIRE.

Yesterday, the Western Suburbs were thrown into a state of great excitement by a fire which broke out in a tenement situated near a creek at the extremity of Sha Kei. In a few minutes from the outbreak the flames were raging high and before the Fire Brigade could get to work several other houses had ignited and were burning furiously. A large pawnshop situated close by narrowly escaped destruction, as the flames were playing fiercely on its walls and only the thickness of the masonry saved it. The Brigade had much difficulty in getting to work, as the streets in this particular locality are more narrow and tortuous than is usual even in Canton, and their efforts were somewhat impeded by the crowds that gathered round the antiquated manual engines they were using. The fire, which broke out before two in the afternoon, was still burning at six o'clock, and it is possible that many lives have been lost.

THE PRICE OF RICE.

The price both of rice and firewood is very high in the City just now. There was perhaps some excuse for the rise in the value of the former some time ago, owing to the continued drought, but now that latterly heavy rains have occurred that excuse no longer holds good. The poorer people are suffering greatly from the high prices and a petition was lately handed to the Viceroy praying for help. On receipt of it the Viceroy ordered an enquiry to be made among the merchants, giving as his opinion that certain people were making a "corner" in the commodities mentioned.

THE FATE OF OPIUM SMOKERS.

A few days ago the Tartar-General, who is an enthusiastic anti-opiumite, sent several officials whom he suspected of being smokers of the drug to the Anti-Opium Bureau, where they were forced to promise to give up the habit under pain of dismissal from office. Among the number was a man holding a patent of hereditary nobility and he stated his inability to give up the practice. The Tartar-General became very angry, and it is reported that he has sent a memorial to the Throne praying that the nobles man be deprived of his rank and office.

ROBBERS AND CLAN FIGHTS.

It has come to the ears of the Viceroy that the prevalence of gang robbers and clan fights in certain districts is due to the action of the local gentry, who very often use these evil means as an end to their own pecuniary benefit. As an example, the locality of Lung To may be quoted. The public fund of this place was very great, and two schools had been opened and were supported by it. A few days ago, however, the local headmen held a meeting, and as a result the schools were closed and the whole fund shared among themselves. These and certain other proceedings of a like nature have come to the notice of the Viceroy, and he has lately warned these village authorities that in future they will be severely dealt with if they do not exercise their powers in the interests of peace and justice.

A FACETIOUS CANDIDATE.

At the recent examination of students of the first degree (*San Ts'oi*) for admission to the second degree (*Pak Kung*) it was found by the Educational Commissioner that a student had written a most absurd composition not dealing with the subject at all and fully of facetious remarks. The grave examiner was much scandalised and ordered the offending essay to be pasted on the door of the examination hall, and he also deprived the "funny" student of his *San Ts'oi* degree.

NEW GIRLS' SCHOOL.

A school for the instruction of girls in English and Chinese is shortly to be opened near the Yan Chai Medical College under the guidance of an American lady teacher. It is stated the teaching staff will be a strong one, and a large number of students are expected to join the school.

8th October.

TROUBLE IN KA YING CHOW.

There has for some months past been a great deal of quarrelling and agitation among those interested in education in Ka Ying Chow. Numerous petitions have been sent to the Viceroy regarding this matter and he has lately held a complete investigation. As a result it has been proved that the whole trouble is due to the incompetence of the district magistrate, who has utterly failed to carry out his duties in a becoming manner. The Viceroy has now discharged this official and a more able man has been appointed to the post.

UNFILIAL CONDUCT.

In the Nam Hoi District there is a village called Shum Shui, and among its inhabitants is a young fellow called Hu Chung, who has made himself notorious by his reckless gambling. Being very unlucky he from time to time demanded money by threats from his father. The latter put up with this state of affairs for some time, but the son's conduct getting worse he charged him with unfilial conduct before the Nam Hoi Magistrate. He managed to escape, however, and returned to the village. That very evening he made a fresh demand for money, and, on being refused, attacked his father with a long knife. The youth's former teacher happened to be present and he endeavoured to protect the father, but was himself severely

stabbed. The youth was at length overpowered and handed over to the authorities, and he now awaits trial.

SUPERSTITION IN FATSHAN.

The inhabitants of Fatshan are in a great state of anxiety as to their fate. Someone has been issuing circulars and scattering them broadcast over the town warning the people that the place is about to be stricken with a pestilence and that the major portion of the inhabitants will die. This is, of course, implicitly believed by the inhabitants, and there is a great deal of unrest in the town in consequence, but with the supineness that characterises them, the officials are making no efforts to discover the distributor of the circulars or to calm the minds of the people.

RESISTING THE POLICE.

A mason whose place of business is in Yeung Chung Street stored a large number of bricks in front of his premises in a way likely to cause danger to the public. A constable called his attention to the state of affairs and ordered him to remove the bricks without delay. He not only disobeyed this order but assaulted the policeman, who thereupon arrested him and took him to the nearest police station. The Kai-fong people of this spot are a turbulent set and they immediately made a great disturbance. They left their work and closed the gates of the street, threatening vengeance on the police. The latter, however, were more than a match for them and compelled them to open the gates. A few of the better-minded among the inhabitants of the street assisted the police, and before long order was restored.

HONGKONG'S BUDGET.

The following abstract shows the differences between the Estimates of Expenditure for 1909 and 1910:—

INCREASE	
Personal Emoluments:—	
New Posts	\$ 34,454
Stipulated Increments	23,422
Increase of Salaries	8,320
Allowances	5,077
Other Items	2,794
Other Charges	64,946
Personal Emoluments and Other Charges:—	
Salaries and Expenses of Customs and Excise Staff	60,000
Military Contribution	115,120
Special Land Resumption	374,805
Kowloon-Canton Railway	100,000
Charitable Services	2,100
Total Increase	\$ 791,038

DECREASE.	
Personal Emoluments:—	
Abolition of Posts	\$ 64,979
Reductions on New Appointments	22,787
Allowances	8,555
Other Items	4,000
Other Charges	76,299
Special Expenditure	4,050
Miscellaneous Services	52,762
Public Works, Recurrent	5,500
Public Works, Extraordinary	101,780
Charge on account of Public Debt	276,890
Pensions	3,060
Total Decrease,	\$ 620,661

The net increase in expenditure is \$170,376.

Count Kozui Otani, Abbot of Hongwanji, Japan, and Countess Otani, who are on a mission to India, arrived here by the *Delta* yesterday. The Count and Countess Otani are going to India for the purpose of studying the religion in the country where Buddha founded his teachings. The Countess Kazuko Otani is the daughter of the late Prince Kujo, and elder sister to the present Crown Princess of Japan. The Count and party yesterday morning visited the Peak and subsequently dined at the residence of Consul and Mrs. Funatsu. In the afternoon the Count held a reception of his followers at the Hongwanji in Morrison Hill Road, and in the evening he was entertained by the Japanese community at the Nippon Club. The Count and Countess proceed by the *Delta* to-day.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Oct. 7th in the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B., A.C.D. (General Officer Commanding).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C. M. I. MESSER (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. P. N. H. JONES (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 40 and 41), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—Summary of recommendations made by the Retrenchment Committee; Byelaws made under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903. Draft Estimates for the year 1910; Financial Statements in connection with the Estimates for 1910; and an abstract showing the differences between the Estimates of Expenditure for 1909 and 1910.

MARKET BYELAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to move that the approval of this Council be given to the Market Bye Laws under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinances, 1903. These byelaws have been made by the Sanitary Board.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I appoint the following Committees for the session 1908-09:—

Finance Committee—All the members of the Council excepting the Governor, the Colonial Secretary to be Chairman.

Law Committee—The Captain Superintendent of Police, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart, the Attorney-General to be Chairman.

Public Works Committee—The Colonial Treasurer, Hon. Mr. Osborne, the Director of Public Works to be Chairman.

MALICIOUS DAMAGE ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Malicious Damage Ordinance, 1865.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL RELIEF ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to relieve the Governor in Council of certain duties.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE ESTIMATES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Five million six hundred and twenty-five thousand six hundred and eighty-three Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1910.

The Bill was as follows:—

Whereas the expenditure required for the service of this Colony for the year 1910 has, apart from the contribution to the Imperial

Government in aid of Military Expenditure, been estimated at the sum of Five million six hundred and twenty-five thousand six hundred and eighty-three Dollars:

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the "Appropriation Ordinance for 1910."

2. A sum not exceeding Five million six hundred and twenty-five thousand six hundred and eighty-three Dollars shall be and the same is hereby charged upon the revenue and other funds of the Colony for the service of the year 1910 and the said sum so charged may be expended as hereinafter specified, that is to say:—

EXPENDITURE.

Governor,...	\$84,878
Colonial Secretary's Department and Legislature,...	68,542
Registrar-General's Department,...	45,985
Audit Department,...	28,305
Treasury,...	59,597
Harbour Master's Department,...	229,931
Observatory,...	22,029
Miscellaneous Services,...	144,307
Judicial and Legal Departments,...	233,677
Police and Prison Departments,...	739,157
Medical Departments,...	236,546
Sanitary Departments,...	358,018
Botanical and Forestry Department,...	50,495
Education,...	237,459
Military Expenditure,—	
Volunteers,...	42,135
Public Works,—	
Public Works Department,...	333,582
Public Works, Recurrent,...	427,500
Public Works, Extraordinary,...	940,820
Special Land Resumption,...	374,805
Post Office,...	444,313
Kowloon-Canton Railway,...	140,000
Charge on account of Public Debt,...	176,206
Pensions,...	227,940
Charitable Services,...	19,456
Total,	\$5,625,683

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY said:—Gentlemen,—When I introduced the Estimates last year I pointed out that although we had estimated for an increase in 1909 over 1908 on ordinary revenue of \$126,000, due chiefly to increase in certain licence fees, but I remarked that although it showed a small increase the revenue estimated for the current year would be \$389,000 below the realised revenue of 1907 and \$568,374 below that of 1906. The papers now laid before you show that some improvement has taken place, and the anticipated ordinary revenue of 1909 will, if realised, exceed that of 1908 by \$98,513, and only falls short of 1907 by \$309,168 instead of \$389,000. This, moreover, takes no account of the new liquor duties collected during the current year, which I dare say will add another half lakh at least to our revenue this year. The actual ordinary revenue last year was \$6,034,849, while it is estimated that the probable amount realised this year, irrespective of liquor duties, will be \$6,133,326, which is \$79,666 in excess of the estimate. The decrease, however, in land sales under ordinary revenue, which were estimated at \$150,000 and will probably yield only \$72,801, eliminates this surplus, and leaves the total anticipated revenue for the current year practically identical with the original estimate, an increase of \$987 only, to which I have said we may probably have a lakh to accrue from liquor duties. Poor as the land sales have been this year, they are nevertheless better than last year by some \$3,800, and if they may be regarded as an index of prosperity it is gratifying to note that they show an upward tendency, however slight. The financial statement shows the estimated balance of assets on December 31 next to be \$1,350,108, as against \$1,073,041 last year, a satisfactory increase of about three lakhs. From this large reserve we hope in part to meet the cost of building the new typhoon refuge. Our total estimate of revenue ordinary and extraordinary for next year stands at \$6,908,787 and our expenditure is estimated at \$6,951,542, which shows an excess of expenditure of \$42,745. This in the circumstances is justifiable, since I shall explain in reviewing the heads of

revenue, our estimate is in one or two cases a conservative one, which may probably be exceeded, and, on the other hand, no sum has been included on account of the contribution promised by the Imperial Government to the loss on opium, since there has been no time to ascertain the intentions of the Home Government.

THE PROBLEM.

Generally speaking, our problem this year was to raise sufficient revenue, or to decrease expenditure, to meet in the first place the deficit of four lakhs which in the current year was provided by the, so to speak, fortuitous appropriation of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, together with an extra lakh for the difference between the interest paid this year on railway advances, and the amount we are paying for land resumption next year for the railway, with 2½ lakhs for opium loss and ¾ lakh for working expenses of the railway for half a year—a total of about eight lakhs. Of this we get a net five lakhs from liquor and one from stamp dues, while the remaining two are provided partly by retrenchments in expenditure and partly by anticipated increase in the existing sources of revenue. In 1911 we shall probably have an additional six lakhs to provide on railway account, and this, I hope, will be largely met by the cessation of expenditure on the Post Office and Law Courts and partly by the increased yield of the liquor and stamp dues and by other minor sources of revenue. There is, however, no need to anticipate the difficulties of 1911.

THE REVENUE.

Turning to the Estimates of revenue for next year, I will run briefly through the various heads. Assessed taxes show an increase of \$38,000, due chiefly to the inclusion of new buildings at Quarry Bay, the remainder of the assessment remains much the same as this year. Chair licences increase \$8,820. Fines and forfeitures have been underestimated, and it is believed that next year they will increase by \$5,500, especially as it may be anticipated that some will accrue owing to the imposition of liquor dues and abolition of divans. Junk licences show a decrease of \$2,000, and the Opium Farm let at \$1,183,200, shows a decrease of \$268,800 on the existing contract. Including divan licences the direct loss in 1910 is \$225,860. This loss is only half of the amount which I was advised would probably accrue from the closing of the divans, and will be covered by the extra duties on liquor. You will recollect that I stated in regard to this question that the first proposal of raising the liquor licence fees did not provide for the loss on opium, for which, had that proposal been adhered to, additional taxation would have had to be imposed. Pawnbrokers' licences are expected, judging by the experience of this year, to increase by \$2,300, prospecting licences decrease by \$2,000. I have made a guess estimate of \$600,000 for the product of the new liquor duties, while \$60,000 is estimated as the cost of machinery for enforcing them, and licence fees will probably decrease by \$31,300, leaving a net increase from taxation of liquor, after a rebate has been made to the military and naval authorities, of \$508,700. Stamp duties, owing to the regulation enforcing a stamp on receipts over \$10 and also to better enforcement, will, it is anticipated, yield an extra lakh. The fees for local registration of companies, judging by the current year, will produce \$3,600 more than last year's estimate. The total increase under licences and internal revenue is estimated at \$4,660,858, an increase of \$497,176 on this year's estimate. Under the third head, there were last year a considerable number of over-estimates: Bills of health, \$1,100; fees of Court, \$3,000; gunpowder depot, \$3,000; medical treatment, \$1,000; sugar certificates, \$1,000, due to certificates being no longer required for Colombo; and sale of vaccine, \$2,000, with various other minor items. On the other hand, the fees of pupils, at Queen's College and other schools, is estimated to increase by \$18,000, and the fees from the Technical Institute by \$850. Against these increases there is some corresponding additional expenditure under the Educational vote. The receipts from water supply are expected to show an additional \$30,000, more meters having been instituted. The total vote under this head is \$557,675, an increase of \$32,961 over last year. The Post Office

is estimated to yield an additional \$52,000 due to increased business, and to this must be added \$27,000, which the Imperial Government has promised, being half the estimated loss on the Postal Agencies, to which I shall refer in discussing the Postal vote. The estimate under rents of Government property shows a considerable increase, buildings, \$1,700; encroachments, \$4,000; leases in the Old Territory, \$2,000 (due to the completion of Kowloon market); and piers \$1,500, while quarries alone show a decrease of \$1,500, as one lease expires in the coming year. The total increase on last year's estimate under this head is \$9,320. Under Miscellaneous Receipts the conservancy contract is less by \$8,776, than heretofore, and a decrease of another \$1,000 is expected under miscellaneous receipts. The total ordinary revenue for 1910 is estimated at \$6,629,297, as against an anticipated sum of \$6,133,362 in the current year, and an actual realised revenue of \$6,034,849 in 1908. Under extraordinary revenue, land sales, estimated this year at \$150,000, only realised \$69,358 in 1908, and are only expected to realise \$72,800 this year. The estimate for next year is therefore decreased to \$100,000. The Widows' and Orphans' Fund does not, of course, reappear as a credit, and we have to find the \$371,500 from other sources, as I have explained. The contributions are increased from \$4,800 to \$42,500. Special light dues were over-estimated this year by \$3,000. There are two new heads of extraordinary revenue, namely, the contribution promised by the Imperial Government of half the loss on the postal agencies, estimated at \$27,000, to which I have just alluded, and the receipts from a half-year's working of the Kowloon-Canton Railway put at \$20,000. The total ordinary and extraordinary revenue estimated for next year stands at \$6,908,797, as against \$6,708,996 for the current year, which included 3½ lakhs for the Widows' and Orphans' Fund last year—an increase of about two lakhs for the current year in addition to this three and a quarter lakhs.

EXPENDITURE.

Turning to the Estimates of Expenditure in 1910, I will perform my usual task of running rapidly through the Estimates for the various departments in order to call your attention to changes of any particular interest or importance. Under Governor a decrease of \$2,000 is effected in the furniture vote. In the Secretariat the absorption of passed cadets, owing to vacancies and promotions and their replacement by unpassed cadets, involves a saving of \$4,000. In the Registrar-General's department some considerable changes have been effected during the present year. The issuing of various licences and other matters of that kind have been transferred to the Captain Superintendent of Police, the Sanitary Department, etc., with the object of confining the Registrar-General's work as much as possible to that covered by the title "Protector of Chinese" in the Straits Settlements. This, as you are aware, has been effected by an Ordinance lately passed by this Council, while a second Ordinance, 4 of 1908, amending the Immigration Ordinance, has thrown upon the department a large amount of additional work in connection with the better supervision of what are now termed "assisted emigrants." I regard this as a most important and valuable reform, with which I am glad to have been associated. Since the nature of the change is familiar to you I need not enter into details now. You will remember that in order to meet the increase of staff rendered necessary by this change, we last year increased the medical fees for emigrants and provided a sum of \$1,200 as allowances to two passed cadets assisting in migration work. This scheme has proved unsatisfactory, partly as no passed cadet was available, and partly because the combination of the duties of Assistant Land Officer and Assistant Registrar-General was not found to be compatible with the efficient discharge of the duties of either post. In the coming year a new second Assistant Registrar-General has been appointed. The department has thus been considerably strengthened both by an increase of staff and a decrease of extraneous work, and will undoubtedly be able to deal more effectively with the many matters in relation to the Chinese population, which are its proper province. The elimination of the duties I have

referred to has caused the transfer of certain duties to other departments, with a consequential decrease here. There are some minor retrenchments which you will see in the summary of the Retrenchment Committee report laid on the table.

THE DUMPING OF DEAD BODIES.

The amendment of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance last year was also designed to relax the stringency of the law in certain directions where it seemed possible to do so without actual danger to the community, by the light of the new knowledge regarding the dissemination of plague resulting from the researches of the Indian Plague Commission. The substitution of methods less onerous to property owners and involving less interference with domestic privacy in the matter of disinfectants, etc., have already, I hope, resulted in a considerable restoration of confidence. (Applause.) These measures, together with the formation of Street Committees and Dispensaries, have effected a decrease in "dumping" which has been most marked. With reference to the Registrar-General's department, I spoke last year of the institution of Street Committees in connection with the new Dispensaries, and I expressed the hope that by enlisting the co-operation of the Chinese we should put an end to the disgraceful and barbarous practice of abandoning corpses in the street and harbour. The number so abandoned in 1906 was 1,447. In 1907 it fell to 1,273, the decrease having taken place entirely in the last few months when the new system began. This fell to 989 in 1908 and up to the end of September this year the number is only 261, or an average of 3.48 for the year. I heartily congratulate the Registrar-General, the department and the Chinese who have assisted in this result.

The audit expenditure is increased by \$894 for the railway work for the last half of the year, and by \$1,040 charged by the Controller and Auditor-General for pension liabilities of auditors. You will see from the summary of the Retrenchment Committee's report that there are some matters of importance in connection with this department, regarding which I am in correspondence with the Secretary of State.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

Under Treasury, I will invite your attention to the new department under the head Judiciary. The District Officer in the New Territory has hitherto been primarily a police officer, and his staff has been shown partly under Police and partly under Treasury, partly under Magistracy and partly under Land Office. He is now recognised primarily as an administrative officer, and he will in future combine the duties of Police Officer and Magistrate, of Treasury Officer and Land Officer, being assisted by an Assistant District Officer, who will equally undertake these duties and be available to replace his senior during his absence at any time with full knowledge of each department of work. Each officer then touring a separate part of the Territories will thus be able to do the whole of the work in the district without the overlapping and duplication hitherto unavoidable. Ignorant villagers cannot readily understand fine sub-divisions of duties of officers, and are puzzled to know why the Assistant Land Officer who settles all matters in relation to their land should be unable to receive the Crown rent due upon it, and so on. The officer hitherto holding the title of Assistant Land Officer now becomes Assistant District Officer and both officers are vested with full and identical powers in regard to each of the functions they perform. My long experience in dealing with primitive people leads me to believe that this change will tend to efficiency, and I am sure it will be greatly appreciated by the people, who need no longer travel big distances to lay certain matters before another officer while one is actually in their district. It is appreciated by the officers themselves who are charged with these duties, and who in the past could hardly have satisfactorily discharged them had they each held rigorously to the official limitation of their own duties. So far as the Estimates are concerned, you can now see at a glance what the cost of the administration in the New Territory is, instead of attempting the difficult task of computing it from some four or more different

heads of estimates there; the same officer appeared under different designations. There are also a few minor reductions amounting to nearly \$1,200.

POSTAL REVENUE AND THE POSTAL AGENCIES QUESTION.

The Hongkong Post Office shows a saving of \$3,000, chiefly accounted for by the abolition of the entry "commission on money orders, \$2,500," which is now deducted from receipts. You will see also in the summary of the Retrenchment Committee report that a saving of \$2,000 is anticipated at once, and \$8,000 eventually by the abolition of overtime allowance except on Sundays and holidays. This recommendation is based on the fact that "the salaries of the clerks have been largely increased and graded under the system which has been applied to the whole clerical service," and also that "long hours on one day are compensated for by short hours at other times." The change, of course, only applies to officers appointed subsequent to this ruling.

With regard to the Postal Agencies, I am glad to be able to inform the Council that as a result of my strong representations to the Secretary of State, the Imperial Government, recognising their responsibilities in this matter, has undertaken to bear half the net loss accruing from the conduct of the postal agencies in China. Weihaiwei will pay whatever it costs to conduct its Post Office. His Majesty's Government suggested that those agencies which show a loss should be required to contribute, and I have accordingly caused a letter to be written to each of them informing them of the terms of the telegram from the Secretary of State, and inviting them to bear a half of the remaining deficit or a quarter of the whole loss. I am still in correspondence on this subject, and the matter could not be settled in time for precise adjustment in the Estimates before you, owing to the long delay of nearly eighteen months before I received a definite reply to my representations to the Home authorities. The present arrangement is provisional for one year only, and the Postmaster-General anticipates that the loss on these agencies will decrease owing to the increased railway facilities to the port of Dalny, which will decrease the transport charges. The agencies began to show a loss in 1908, in which year, including the military contribution on gross receipts, it amounted to \$53,172, of which Shanghai accounted for \$39,485. For the coming year the loss is estimated at \$53,760 (Shanghai \$40,440, or, without military contribution, \$27,200). I have been moving in this matter, as you are aware from my statements on the Budgets of the last two years, ever since I have been in the Colony, and I am glad to have succeeded in inducing the Treasury to recognise the responsibility of the Imperial Government in this matter—a responsibility which was fully admitted by Lord Elgin. They are pledged to meet half the net loss, and I am in hopes that I shall succeed in covering the remaining loss partly by contributions from the British communities concerned, or alternatively by raising the postal rates. I have observed that a paraphrase of the letter addressed to Shanghai on the subject has appeared in the local Press, and I would say in this connection that it appears to me that it is not the Municipal Council of that Settlement, which represents a cosmopolitan community, but the British merchants who should defray the cost of the British agency, and I cannot believe that a wealthy place such as Shanghai will rest content that Hongkong should pay for its postal facilities at a loss which is estimated this year at \$40,440, including the military contribution, which, of course, we cannot expect them to pay.

I had also asked that the gross receipts from the Postal Agencies should be exempt from payment of the 20 per cent. military contribution, which should only be levied on the net profit, if in the future any profits are ever made. The Secretary of State supported my view, but he now informs me that he is appointing a Commission to inquire into the whole question of the military contribution; so the question remains in abeyance. If during this coming year a satisfactory arrangement by which Hongkong shall be entirely relieved of all loss on this account is not arrived at, it will be open to this Government to decline to

undertake them any longer, and it cannot be said that we have not done our utmost in the interest of British interests in the Far East. Meanwhile the question of military contribution is to be fully investigated. The total postal expenditure shows a decrease of \$4,500.

THE HARBOUR AND EXCISE DEPARTMENTS.

At the Harbour Office the replacement of a first by a fifth grade telegraph clerk effects a saving of \$1,140, and the vote for coal for launches has been reduced by \$2,100. The large sum for fog signalling at Gap Rock last year is non-recurrent, and is therefore decreased by \$2,100. The net saving in the whole department amounts to about \$2,500, and a further saving of \$2,550 appears under special expenses of a buoy for Cust Rocks. The only considerable change in this department is that in consequence of the new liquor duties, the collection of which will devolve upon the Superintendent of Imports and Exports. I have decided that this office shall until further notice be detached from the *ex officio* duties of the Harbour Master. The Superintendent of Imports and Exports remains directly responsible to me for the collection of the liquor duties. The cost of his staff, and all incidental expenses, will be met from a lump sum of \$60,000, for which provision has been made, and when the system has gradually evolved itself during the first experimental year we shall be able in the Budget of 1911 to distribute this vote, and insert in their proper places the actual staff which experience will have shown to be necessary, and the various other charges involved. I may observe that this cost will not be entirely included in the Harbour Office; a part will be incurred by an extra staff in the Government Analyst's department, and part may appear under Police.

THE OBSERVATORY.

Under Observatory there is little change except that an increase has been allowed for meteorological telegrams, which will add to its efficiency. The Director concurred with the Retrenchment Committee that when the post of Assistant Meteorologist falls vacant it need not be filled. In running through these heads of Estimates it has been my object not merely to explain changes in figures, but to inform you and through you, the community at large, of all matters of interest and importance which have occurred during the past year or are in anticipation in the approaching year. It is unavoidable that this should greatly prolong my speech on this occasion, but for my own part I welcome this annual opportunity of explaining matters of policy and of progress, and I am sure I shall not exhaust your patience in doing so. It is the one occasion upon which the Government, which is entrusted with the welfare of the community, has an opportunity of giving an account of its stewardship, and of enlisting the interest of its inhabitants in the Colony in the various matters not directly connected with legislation, and which therefore do not ordinarily come before this Council. In regard, then, to the Observatory, we have not yet heard of the establishment of the wireless station which the Government of the Philippines undertook with such willing co-operation to erect in the Islands of the Balingtang Channel, but we may be sure it will not be forgotten. So soon as the present negotiations between China and Japan are satisfactorily concluded I have hopes that we may witness the erection of a station at Pratas—(applause)—which will be of invaluable assistance to our typhoon warnings.

Under Miscellaneous Services, the sub-head of the same name has been reduced by \$15,000. This cannot be regarded as a retrenchment, for the expenditure hitherto devoted to this head must in future appear separately, as it should do. As last year, the full vote of \$20,000 was exceeded by \$37,332; loss on exchange and the purchase of the Laichikok quarantine station was debited to it. The economy in the method of printing in the *Gazette* saves \$4,000, while a small increase has been made for printing miscellaneous papers in order to co-ordinate and improve the records.

THE SUBSIDIARY COINAGE QUESTION.

Under Redemption of Subsidiary Coins there is an increase of \$4,000. This is calculated to cover the loss on discount of subsidiary coin received as legal tender during

the year, and not, as in the last two years, to cover the loss by withdrawal and demonetization. In 1908 a sum of \$36,000 was estimated for this purpose, and the actual expenditure was \$164,674, which included notes in hand. In 1909 the same estimate of \$36,000 and the actual expenditure is estimated at \$134,000, which gives a total of nearly three lakhs in three years. For my own part, I can see no object in withdrawing our currency from circulation so long as its depreciation below par value is obviously, due not to an excess in the quantity, but to the existence of a par value coinage which is not legal tender and which circulates at a discount and influences the value of our own, making it run to a discount. (Applause.) If, then, our coinage is shown to be redundant it will, in my view, be time enough to take steps to withdraw a portion. At present it seems to me it is unnecessary to cover this loss while the whole question remains as yet undecided and our financial position is difficult. The matter is, however, one which affects the trade and commerce of the Colony, and I am referring the question to the Chamber of Commerce and the China Association, which are representative bodies entitled to speak for those interests, and as a sum has been provided in the Estimates in excess of that provided during the last two years, when the policy of demonetization was in operation, either policy can be followed so far as the Estimates are concerned. The actual loss incurred by Government by payment of discount on subsidiary coins is calculated at \$26,777. I cannot leave this question without a reference to the larger aspect of it. The attitude of the Government has been described as one of apathy and devoid of a definite policy. This is incorrect. There are two policies open to us. One is to adopt some vigorous method of restriction of Chinese subsidiary coinage, the other is to await the result of the pressure now being brought to bear upon the Chinese Government to reorganise their coinage and more especially to control the issue of their mints. The first policy, that of vigorous repression of Chinese coinage, which is to await the result of the measures undertaken by Peking, would, no doubt, result in the rehabilitation of our small currency. It would also probably result in a great influx of that currency from China, and compel us to large measures of demonetisation which at the present moment our finances can ill afford. It is urged by those who oppose that policy that it would interfere with the minor operations of trade, especially among the Chinese; that to enforce it would require measures which would be highly unpopular; that it would be resented in Canton. They say that the companies who suffer are few and that the remedy is in their own hands, namely, either refuse non-legal tender or to put up their fares or prices. Those, on the other hand, who advocate the second line of policy, urge that although many years have passed without anything effective having been done by the Chinese Government, the last year or two has seen a movement the result of which we ought to wait before taking a plunge in the dark. During last year we were awaiting the return of His Excellency Tang Shao Yi, who had been sent to Europe and America, it is understood, largely to study this question. Since his return one important edict has been issued which a Home paper describes as a foundation stone of the Mackay Treaty. It enacts that all coins now current of whatever value shall be minted of one standard of fineness and one authorised pattern. Meanwhile the necessity for increasing her import duties is daily becoming more imperative, and Great Britain and other countries have declined to agree until the questions of *likin* and coinage are simultaneously dealt with. It is in these circumstances, I think, legitimate to hope that the decree I have referred to is the beginning of a real attempt to deal with this matter. I made an attempt within a few days of my arrival in this Colony to ascertain the views of the merchants and bankers and financiers of Hongkong upon this vexed question, and in August, 1907, I appointed a large and influential Committee to investigate and report upon it. The findings of that committee were by no means unanimous, and the majority were divided amongst themselves on several

issues. By a narrow majority they recommended the first of the two policies, namely, one of restriction of Chinese coins. But, I think, though I am not certain, that the Chairman agrees with me that it would be better to defer putting that majority recommendation into operation at present. The Chamber of Commerce and the China Association, however, advised against this policy. In the circumstances I have adjudged it most advisable up to the present to adopt the course advised by these two bodies, and I wish to impress upon you in doing so that we are adopting a definite policy which does not denote either apathy or indifference. (Applause.) During the coming year we shall judge whether events justify us in continuing this policy or in adopting some alternative. The matter is too large to deal with on this occasion in detail, and it would be better to discuss it separately should any unofficial member desire to raise the issue. I cannot, however, leave it without a passing reference to a speech delivered by a prominent and greatly respected member of this community who formerly occupied a seat at this Council. Speaking as the Chairman, of the Hongkong Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, he stated that a loss of \$28,389 had been incurred by the company on subsidiary coin during the half-year. I disregard the charges of lack of wisdom, courage or foresight and the accusation of indifference, apathy and supineness which the speaker stated to be amazing, even for this Government, and which his audience applauded, and I come to the facts. I have here an extract from a letter addressed to me unsolicited from the manager of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, and he says that he considers it his duty to write in explanation of the statements to which I have alluded, which he describes as irrelevant and fallacious. He proceeds to explain that as Messrs. Butterfield and Swire are working in agreement with the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company he is qualified to speak. He informs me that "ninety to ninety-five per cent. of the earnings on the Canton line are collected on board in subsidiary coin and must always be collected on board. Nothing that the Hongkong Government can do would change this custom of paying on board or cause passengers to pay in anything but subsidiary coin. At present they pay in Hongkong subsidiary coin and Canton subsidiary coin, as both are at about the same discount. If Hongkong barred Canton subsidiary coin from import into and circulation in Hongkong, it would not make any difference to the Chinese passengers, who would only then pay in Canton subsidiary coinage as the cheaper money, and if the steamers attempted to collect Hongkong subsidiary coinage, assuming that by prevention of Canton subsidiary coinage our subsidiary coinage could be raised to par, the passengers would travel by other steamers not imposing this condition. It follows that the Steamboat Company has to accept that which is offered in payment of passage money, and the subsidiary coinage would still have to be sold at market rates. Again, assuming that Canton subsidiary coinage is barred out of Hongkong and that Hongkong subsidiary coinage is by this action raised to par, it is not unreasonable to suppose that with the Hongkong market closed against it Canton subsidiary coinage might even go to a greater discount than at present, and therefore the Steamboat Company would be worse off than they are now, for it is certain that under these conditions most of the subsidiary coinage collected on board would be Canton subsidiary coinage, which they would have to sell at market price in Canton. The Steamboat Company could not by any means they possess force passengers to pay Hongkong subsidiary coinage. It is, moreover, a fact that the Steamboat Company with ourselves did raise the rate of passage money to compensate for the discount on the subsidiary coinage we are forced to receive, and the Company's accounts speak for themselves." I will not quote further from Mr. Law's interesting letter, which is devoted to arguments against the policy of restricting Canton subsidiary coinage, and to justifying the present policy of the Government. It is only on this one occasion during the year that the Government has an opportunity of justifying or at least explaining its action. Charges of

apathy and indifference are brought against it, and I have thought it fitting to put this other side of the matter before the Council. In this particular matter I think Mr. Law can debate the question with my friend Mr. Shewan. I am only concerned to demonstrate to the Council that there is no apathy or indifference on the part of the Government. We are watching the signs of the times, and are ready at any moment to adopt such a course as may recommend itself, and meet with the approval of the merchants and bankers, taking into due consideration the political issues involved, the cost to the taxpayer, and the effect on trade as a whole, and not merely to one company.

THE JUDICIARY AND POLICE.

Reverting to the Estimates, economy in telegrams sent by Government, to the Secretary of State results in a saving of \$3,000. The vote for the Widows' and Orphans' Fund expenses is no longer necessary now that the fund is transferred to Government, but it has been retained for next year to meet the fees of the actuaries who are making the valuation. It appeared last year under Treasury. The transfer has been reduced by \$4,000. Under the heading of Judiciary there is a saving of about \$2,000 due to new appointments under the Supreme Court, and a new head, as I have already described, is opened under District Officer with transfers from various other departments, the total amounting to \$35,524. The net increase in the Judiciary amounts to \$17,194. With regard to the Police, reductions have been effected, as in other departments, by the creation of a new District Officer. One lance-sergeant has been abolished in the New Territory. The Retrenchment Committee recommended two. The Retrenchment Committee also recommended the sale of No. 3 launch, but I have decided to retain her with a stoker and seaman in charge to take the place of other launches when under repair and also for use in emergencies. This effects practically the same reduction in cost and avoids the necessity of the whole crew of a launch remaining idle while it is under repair. The saving amounts to \$9,684. The transfer from Miscellaneous Services of \$24,000, equalisation on exchange on Indian police pensions, however, brings the total up to \$603,279, and converts a decrease of about \$7,000 into an increase of about \$17,000. With regard to the Prison, four warders and one chief warder, four assistant warders and seven guards have been dispensed with on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, at a saving of over \$9,500.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

Under the heading of Medical, a new medical officer for the New Territory and Railway is provided from June, 1909, until the railway is expected to open. Hitherto two-thirds of his salary has been borne by railway funds. On the other hand, one assistant medical officer of health at Kowloon has been abolished under the Sanitary Department vote. The abolition of the *Hygeia*, to which I shall allude later, effects a saving of some \$5,500, including the temporary staff at Kennedy Town Hospital. The Other Charges votes, which have had a tendency to increase each year and are not fully expended, have been reduced, as you will see, in many cases, under the heads, incidental expenses, medicines and appliances, and especially provisions for patients. The post of assistant bacteriologist has been abolished and a Chinese licentiate substituted. The total medical vote is decreased by \$11,650. In the Sanitary Department the principle clerk has been abolished, and the Secretary, whose former duties are now largely performed by the Head of the Department, is placed on a lower rate of pay, a saving of about \$600. The second assistant medical officer of health, the remaining sanitary surveyor and and three inspectors are abolished, leaving 24 and one storekeeper, 10 artisans, 3 boatmen, 1 market overseer, and some minor staff, effecting a total saving of over \$26,800. The other charges in the vote have also been considerably decreased, two large items amounting to \$6,800 being transferred to the Public Works revenue and the amount provided for coolie labour. Disinfectants, incandescent light, paint, and rent, amount in all to about \$13,200. The opening of Mataukok slaughter-houses, on the other hand, involved some extra staff, which

will be fully recouped by fees. The total saving effected is \$50,884. The Forestry Department shows little change.

EDUCATION.

There is a small saving on Education. Provision is made for the additional master at Queen's College in view of the increase in school fees, and the small school at Aberdeen has been closed as the attendance was insufficient. It had also been decided to bring Queen's College under the Education Department whenever Dr. Wright's service should terminate, and this has now been accomplished. It involves a saving of \$900 for examination fees. A further instalment of dual desks is provided for at a cost of about \$4,000, and \$800 has been set apart for scholarships to Queen's College from the district schools. At Saiyupin, Yaumati and Wanchai the purchase of desks is completed, which saves \$2,000. The amounts in grants under the code continue to increase and reaches the large sum of \$65,000. I propose to examine this question during the coming year. The Technical Institute has proved to be a most valuable institution. The vote for the lecturing staff is increased by 2,000. The total education vote is increased by about \$5,320, and it is anticipated that this will be much more than met by increased school fees.

MILITARY CONTRIBUTION—A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

Under defence there is the usual 20 per cent. for Military Contribution, which, in consequence of the increased revenue we have to raise to meet expenses, amounts to a larger sum than last year. The Secretary of State has informed me that he proposes to appoint a committee to inquire into the incidence of this contribution. I have already expressed to you my own view that the Colony cannot complain of having to pay only a very little over a quarter the cost of its defence without any contribution to the navy, though I am of opinion that the mode of levying it might be altered so as to better carry out Mr. Chamberlain's object of making it fall less heavily in years of depleted revenue. Under the other charges for the Volunteers, considerable reductions have been made with the concurrence of the commandant, amounting to \$5,200.

PUBLIC WORKS AND RAILWAYS.

In the Public Works Department one surveyor senior ex-engineer has been appointed as second assistant in order to cope with the additional work in the office and a new overseer has been created. A land surveyor has been appointed in place of two second grade surveyors, and a new scale of pay adopted for these officers involving with incremental rises a total increase of \$3,216. The other charge, in the vote are increased by \$10,800 which is deducted from the miscellaneous service vote under public works recurrent and placed under its proper heads. The vote for drawing materials and survey work is increased by \$1,000 to meet increased work. Under public works recurrent the miscellaneous service vote of \$11,000 disappears, \$6,800 is included for cemeteries taken from the Sanitary department, the total being thus a decrease of \$5,500. Under charges on account of public debt, you will find that whereas \$276,890 was provided last year for interest on railway advances, no sum is provided this year. It is the usual custom to charge interest on capital during construction to capital account, and I have obtained the sanction of the Secretary of State to do so. \$482,921 will have been paid out of revenue during the present and past two years on this account. For the next four years it is estimated at \$330,000. This will add eight lakhs to the railway cost, the repayment of which will, under the operation of a sinking fund, be spread over a long term of years instead of falling in its entirety up on the Colony now. You are aware that the line is expected to open for traffic on July 1st, and it would therefore seem proper to charge only half the interest on capital to construction account. The line will, however, only be opened by utilising the contractor's "overland" loop line, and as Messrs. Leigh and Orange's contract will not be completed during the year, a very integral part of the construction will still be proceeding until or beyond the end of next year. I think that it is legitimate to charge interest on capital and construc-

tion account for the whole of 1910 and to charge it to open line account from 1st of January, 1911. Pensions do not call for any remarks, as they show an estimated decrease of \$3,000. Charitable services is increased by the additional grant to the new Tung Wah Hospital Kowloon, of \$2,100.

I will as usual run briefly through the programme of public works extraordinary for the coming year. For the Law Courts we set aside \$105,000, and for the Post Office \$230,000, and these sums, I am glad to say, are the last large votes on these great works. Only \$75,000 is estimated to be required to complete both in 1910. (Applause.) Public latrines absorb the same sum as has been devoted to this object during the past few years. The gradual replacement of offensive private latrines and urinals, and the provision of public conveniences, if necessary by resumption of the site required, on which \$92,692 has been spent to the end of 1909, is a measure of sanitation which I regard as thoroughly practical and necessary and of urgent importance. \$32,000 is provided to complete the new market at Kowloon, which is not only greatly required but will be remunerative in fees. The total cost will be \$66,000 and the expenditure to 1909 is \$34,000. This is largely a refund, as \$16,900 will be unexpended this year. The delay is due to unexpected difficulty in the foundations and delay of steel work. The necessity for the extension to No. 2 Police Station was described by me last year. I regret that the Director of Public Works has not yet been able to commence the work, but a beginning will be made shortly and the sum shown in the estimate is a re-vote of the remainder. Taipo Land Office requires \$2,000 to complete and the steps of the ballroom at Government House show a sum of \$1,300. This work will be completed during the current year and the sum carried forward to next year is the retention money payable after six months of maintenance by the contractors in accordance with the terms of the contract. The extension of the Public Works Department offices will be completed this year at a cost of \$2,000 more than the original estimate for it, as it has been found necessary to add a second storey and a covered way in order to accommodate the staff. The matshed in the compound which it has been necessary to put up for part of the staff has been taken down. The staff quarters at Taipo are completed and so is the quarantine station at Lai-chikok, where \$5,282 additional expense had to be incurred—\$15,782 owing to the bad foundations of the boundary wall and extra repairs. The extensions to Queen's College are completed. It has not been possible as yet to begin the erection of the market at Aberdeen, for which provision was made this year, but it is hoped that it will be done this year. The same sum as in the current year, \$30,000, is provided for new roads in Kowloon. The three chief items included in the programme under this vote are (a) The completion of Argyle Street, which will form the main thoroughfare between the new railway station at Yaumati and the seafront and to the villages of Yaumati and Mongkoktsui. A small portion of this work is debited to the railway, the amount to be paid from revenue being \$9,265, which, together with \$21,152, makes a total of \$30,417. (b) A sum of \$6,000 is charged to this vote for the completion of the nullah in Waterloo Road. (c) \$12,000 is to be devoted to the prolongation of Nathan Road, including cutting a hill, the soil from which is required for reclamation, under which vote the balance of cost will be debited. New roads in the New Territory are retained at \$25,000, which will be devoted almost exclusively to the prolongation of the Castle Peak Road, and we hope to carry it on to complete the eight miles in 1910. Four and a half miles will be completed on the new system I described in a former Budget speech, namely, the road is six feet broad in banks and eight feet in cuttings. The bridges are, however, made to the full eventual width of fourteen feet and the land resumed is sufficient to be eventually extended to this breadth. By this means the initial cost is reduced to about \$6,000 per mile, including resumption. I consider this main trunk road through the New Territory as a work of the first importance, both for the purposes of facilitating trade and also for police control; since the road was made from Castle

Peak to Pingshan the traffic upon it has been immense. Traders and others who formerly had to make a long detour now go direct and save much time, while from the latter point of view, namely, police control, the patrols are now able to police the district much more efficiently and in less time. As another result of this road construction, it is probable that the point at which it leaves the seafront will command a very high price as a pier site. The vote for primary streets is reduced to \$30,000 from \$35,000. Of this \$7,000 will be added to the \$6,000 from the new roads in the Kowloon vote towards forming the nullah in Waterloo road, \$2,000 for lowering the road near the French Convent at Happy Valley to which the Government has long been pledged; \$2,000 for tram diversion on Shauiwan Road, to which the Government has also long been pledged; \$2,000 to complete Reclamation Street, \$2,000 for roads in the Hunghom district, and \$1,500 each for Salisbury Road and Marine Lot 29, the balance being for general works. The vote of \$27,500 for raising Chatham Road is in repayment for work undertaken by the Kowloon-Canton Railway, the portion to be done by the Public Works Department being completed this year. This completes the whole of this important improvement rendered necessary by the new reclamation at a total cost of \$51,000.

DRAINAGE WORKS, ETC.

The road on Victoria Peak, for which \$4,500 was provided this year, has not been undertaken in the pressure of more important works, and we do not propose to proceed with it next year. The reconstruction of gullies upon which a sum of \$93,600 will have been spent by the end of this year is now practically complete, and only \$600 is allotted next year for completion. A sum of \$15,000 is allotted for training nullahs, of which \$8,000 will be spent on improvements at Shauiwan, in which district, as you are aware, the Sanitary Board have made representations on the initiative of the Principal Medical Officer, who complained of the prevalence of malaria in the Lyemoo Barracks, and we propose to spend about \$3,500 this year, making a total of \$11,500. The expenditure of the rest of the vote has not yet been decided. With regard to flushing tanks and iron pipes, three tanks are completed out of six, and iron pipes have been substituted for earthenware in Bonham Road at a total cost of \$19,263. It is proposed in 1910 to continue the substitution in Garden Road at a cost of \$5,000. This, you will recollect, is part of the Chadwick scheme which the Government has been consistently carrying out for seven years past. Miscellaneous drainage stands at \$45,000, the principal items of which are new drainage works at Shauiwan, \$7,300; the extension of the drain on the railway reclamation, \$2,100; new surface water drains near the Yaumati Pumping Station, \$5,000; extension of the sewer near the Yacht Club, \$410; extension of sewer near Yaumati Theatre, \$2,140; surface water drains, Samshuipo, \$4,000; Reclamation Street, \$1,100; and Hok Un, \$5,000.

OTHER VOTES.

The sum of \$5,000 is allotted for pushing forward the triangulation survey of the Colony, which, I am glad to say, is making progress. The old heading of this vote is not applicable, for many of the old travellers' traffic marks cannot be identified, and money is wasted on the work of trying to re-establish them completely. Where they can be found they are included in the new triangulation. The vote includes the cost of engaging a man on a two years' agreement. The sum of \$18,000 will complete the reinforced concrete piers at Green Island and Kowloon City. I do not propose to proceed with the one opposite the Harbour Office at present. Its estimated cost is \$26,000, and the total cost of the two completed will be \$34,734. Blake Pier roofing is completed, and cost \$8,546 over the estimate, which was due to an alteration in the design made by the Crown Agents and a loss on exchange. The Miscellaneous Works vote is \$35,000. This is for the various urgent minor works for which necessity is shown during the year. They will, I hope, include the Beacons on Bansanich and Douglas rocks, and the small pier at Saikung. With regard to the typhoon refuge, under Revenue you will find that \$90,000 is expected to be

realised from the special light dues, and this sum is entered against the work. The remainder of the expenditure during the coming year will be debited to the special fund, and defrayed from the Colonial reserves, to which course I have the sanction of the Secretary of State. It is probable also that the sale of the dredger will also add to the funds in hand for the work. The amount, including the cost of the dredger, already spent, is \$306,693, which is not so much as we had hoped to expend, but the delay in getting forward with the work is due to the necessary time occupied in preparing the designs and plans. The deepening of Causeway Bay has been pushed on rapidly and will be completed this year. The sum shown, viz., \$11,000, is the balance of the estimate and is retention money due to the contractor on the expiration of the period for which he is responsible for maintenance. The total cost is \$74,000. The sum put down in the Estimates for resumption on Marine Lot 29, which was borne on this year's Estimates, has not fallen due for payment. Half, namely, \$19,700, will be paid this year, and half next year. The Albany filter beds reconstruction and extension has proved a costly undertaking, totalling about \$182,000. The sum of \$16,000 falling due next year is retention money, and \$6,000 is a re-vote from this year, but, I am glad to say, will complete this work. Kowloon Waterworks form one of the great undertakings on which this Colony is justly proud. Its cost is \$1,194,609, and the sum provided next year, \$37,520, is all that is required to complete it. The vote for miscellaneous waterworks has been increased next year, from \$25,000 to \$28,000, in order to admit of improvement of Mr. Looker's catchwater (Tyam). A twelve-inch main will be laid from the Albany filter beds to convey the Tyam water to West Point, and for this \$12,000 will be expended in 1910. We shall already have spent \$20,000 for the pipes this year. West Point will thus not have to rely on Pokfulam reservoir only, and the additional supply will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated by the Chinese population of that district. The new works for 1910 comprise the following:—(1) Coolie quarters at Kennedy Town Hospital. On the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, supported by the acting Principal Civil Medical Officer and by Dr. Stedman, I approved the sale of the hospital ship *Hygeia*, and in future smallpox patients will be treated in the Kennedy Town Hospital, which, together with the Tung Wah Infectious Diseases Hospital, alongside, have hitherto not been utilised to their full potential utility. I have already stated the amount of the saving in staff thus effected by the sale of the *Hygeia*, in addition to the sum received. There are, however, some mismatches between the hospital and the hill in the rear of it which are used as both house and coolie quarters, and soon after I came to the Colony I pointed out the great danger from fire which they constituted to a building which might contain many invalids incapable of saving themselves. These will be replaced at a cost of \$3,600. (2) \$8,500 is provided for a slaughter-house at Shauiwan, which is much required, and will be remunerative. (3) A sum of \$18,000 has been provided for extension of the gaol.

BELILIOS REFORMATORY FOR GIRLS.

Hitherto the Belilios Reformatory has been used as an overflow or branch prison. This building was a charitable bequest given to the Colony for a specific purpose, and in my view it is altogether irregular to use it for such a purpose as a branch prison. It is, moreover, very distant from the central prison, and not well suited for such a purpose. The object of the donor was that the building should be used as a reformatory for boys, but changes in the law and its administration in regard to juvenile offenders were partly responsible for the fact that no inmates were forthcoming to occupy this building, even supposing that such an institution were adapted to the requirements of this Colony, of which I have doubts. Only one boy was ever placed in it, and he shortly after escaped. (Laughter) On the other hand, owing chiefly to the exertions of the lady whose name the institution bears, the "Eyre Refuge" for derelict Chinese women and girls had come into existence, and its good work

was recognised by the Po Leung Kuk, which is, as you are aware, an institution maintained entirely by Chinese for the rescue of women and girls. The Po Leung Kuk, however, does not profess to provide a permanent home, but only to repatriate or otherwise dispose, by marriage or otherwise, of the women who, under local Ordinances, are committed to its charge. When no means of disposal, such as marriage or repatriation, presented themselves, the directors were glad in many cases to hand over girls to the care of the Eyre Refuge. This institution has been organised with a representative Committee under the presidency of the Right Reverend Bishop Lander, and with an extended sphere of usefulness it appeared to me that no better use could be found for this building than as a reformatory for girls. I consulted Mr. Belilios on his recent visit here, and with his cordial concurrence the home has been handed over to the Eyre Committee.

GAOL EXTENSION.

The gaol, on the other hand, has long been found to be somewhat restricted in space, and from time to time the ordinary rules as to segregation of prisoners have had to give way to the necessity of accommodating inmates, and it has occasionally been necessary for prisoners to sleep in the passages, etc. I look, therefore, on this proposed gaol extension as a very necessary and urgent matter, together with some improvements in ventilation which I have personally inspected, and which met with the unanimous approval of the Principal Civil Medical Officer and the Captain Superintendent of Police. The cost will be largely reduced by the employment of prison labour.

NEW WORKS.

(3) A sum of \$40,000 is allotted to reclamation work at Yaumati, which may be classed as remunerative expenditure, since the new lots formed will bring in revenue by premia and Crown rent. We hope during next year to effect the beginning of some extremely necessary sanitary improvements in the village of Tai Hang. The total cost is estimated at \$15,500, and of this \$4,500 will be expended. \$8,000 is devoted to the building of a new police station at Tsun Wan, which is considered to be a matter of much importance for the effective supervision of the New Territory. The present station at Au Tau, which is only a mile distant from the station at Ping Shan, is no longer necessary as it was in the earlier days, the more so that the two stations are connected by the new road. The police detachment there will therefore be moved to Tsun Wan. Finally, a sum of \$15,000 has been set down for the rebuilding of one of the Government pavilions. These two buildings have, as you are aware, been provided for the members of the Civil Service, who are allowed to occupy them for a fortnight in rotation during the hot weather in order to recruit their health and obtain a change from the lower levels. They pay a sum for maintenance of furniture, and I think the Colony obtains its value for the capital expenditure on the buildings in the renewed health and vigour there obtained. The buildings were reported to be unsafe for habitation last year, but were temporarily strengthened by guys and stays so as to render it possible for them to be occupied during the summer. It will be necessary next year to rebuild one of them. I had hoped to provide a sum to start a pier at the end of Nathan Road, the total cost to be \$24,000, but this must be deferred to next year, for the list of works is already as much as the Public Works Department can supervise, nor is there any money available. The total of the Public Works Extraordinary for 1910 is \$940,820; to this must be added a sum of \$374,805 for land reclamation in the neighbourhood of the new railway station at Kowloon. I have considered it wise to resume this land for the future extension of the station in the not distant future, but as it will not be immediately occupied, its cost is not debitable to railway construction funds until such time as it may be wanted. Meanwhile it can be let on short lease, and the rental will, I hope, cover the interest on the capital sum. Against this may be set the sum of \$330,000, which is the amount of interest on advances which under the system hitherto in operation would have been payable

next year. The total of the extraordinary expenditure is \$1,315,625.

THE RAILWAY.

This allusion to the Kowloon Station brings me to the Railway Estimates. With regard to the figures I have little or nothing to say, since it is not long ago that I made a full statement to the Council on this subject. You will see under statement "B" that the construction staff is being rapidly reduced, and is calculated for the half-year only. The open line staff and working expenses are included for the remaining half-year in a new kind of estimate, and, on the advice of the Chief Resident Engineer, a sum of \$100,000 has been provided, while the earnings are put down at \$20,000, which I hope may be exceeded. A traffic manager has been engaged to organise the working of the new line and he is due to arrive shortly. As soon as he arrives I hope to open negotiations for the joint working agreement with the Canton section. The Consulting Engineers, after careful consideration, have decided that it will be necessary to dismantle two or more of the bridges which failed owing to the extremely unstable nature of the sub-soil in which the foundations are sunk. In consequence I have decided to abandon one bridge which had been designed to cross a proposed road north of Yaumati. It is probable that it will be many years before the road is made, and I am informed that the bridge can be erected if required at any subsequent time. This will reduce the extra cost involved in rehabilitation. The work is proceeding satisfactorily. At the end of last month the total of the big tunnel completed and lined was 4,935 feet, and as this work is proceeding at an average rate of nearly eighty feet a week, we may hope to see the completion of the tunnel by the end of April or early in May. The remainder of the railway is also nearing completion.

DIFFICULTIES FAIRLY MET.

On the whole, gentlemen, I hope you will agree with me that our difficulties have been fairly met for the coming year. We have had to submit to a tax on liquor, but it is not, in comparison with home duties, a very high one, and I hope that the method of its enforcement will not give rise to any infringement of the freedom of the port beyond what is absolutely needful for its collection. I anticipate an increased yield in 1911, as the expenditure on the law courts and post office will then have ceased and the typhoon refuge will be paid for out of Colonial Reserves. I am in hopes that with returning prosperity and an increase in the ordinary revenue which accompanies prosperity, we may be able in 1911 to meet our heavy liabilities on account of interest and sinking fund without any further increase of taxation. We have still to struggle against the low rate of exchange which enhances the cost of imports from Europe for sale in China, but, on the other hand, I hope that the removal of vexatious restrictions on landed property is already beginning to show a resulting confidence. (Applause.)

LIQUORS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Liquors Ordinance, 1909.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Trade Marks.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the periodical inspection of Steam Boilers and Prime Movers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PENSION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance, 1908.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS' ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Protection of Women and Girls' Ordinance,

1897, as amended by the Protection of Women and Girls' Amendment Ordinance, 1905.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

LAND RESERVATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the Reservation of certain lands in Victoria, in the Peak District, and in Kowloon as Recreation Grounds, and to provide for Regulations as to the use thereof.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC PLACES REGULATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Public Places Regulation Ordinance, 1870.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

CHINESE EXTRADITION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

TYPHOON REFUGE ORDINANCE.

The second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorize the Construction and Maintenance of a Harbour of Refuge upon and over certain portions of the Sea Bed and Fore-shore situated upon the Harbour frontage at Taikoktsui, Mongkoktsui, and Yaumati, Kowloon, in this Colony, was adjourned.

CEMETERY ORDINANCE.

The Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to set apart certain Crown Land to be used as a burial ground for persons professing the Christian Religion, other than members of the Roman Catholic Church, was adjourned.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until next Thursday week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following vote was passed:—

PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of three hundred and two dollars (\$302) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Miscellaneous, Compensation for resumption of Lot No. 3212, in Survey District IV., New Territories.

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Twenty Dollars (\$20) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, Land Registry Office, Other Charges, Incidental Expenses.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES PROSECUTION.

On Oct. 4th, the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha were summoned by Inspector Gourlay for using unjust scales. The case in which they had been previously fined \$800 for a similar offence was also reheard. Mr. John Hastings appeared for the defence. He argued, in the second offence which was alleged to have taken place on the *Shibetoro Maru*, that there was no evidence of *mala fides*. Of the eight machines in use three were correct, two were in favour of the purchaser, two were in favour of the vendor, and one was out of order, and the Inspector could not say whether it was right or wrong. The two against the purchaser were practically cancelled by the two against the vendor. There was no intention to defraud. The scales were old.

HIS WORSHIP—They admit they were not tested?

Mr. Hastings—They were not tested. They ought to have been tested once a year or more. My clients will do so in future. The scales get out of order through negligence or through lapse of time. Besides, there were only two scales in respect of which his clients were liable, and if any penalty is imposed, I would ask your Lordship to make it a nominal one.

HIS WORSHIP reserved his decision in both cases.

DARING DAYLIGHT ROBBERY.

EUROPEAN LADY ATTACKED.

A daring daylight robbery within sight of the city took place on Tuesday afternoon when three Chinese attacked Miss Bartlett, the acting head sister of the Naval Hospital, on Kennedy Road, and after handling her very severely robbed her of money and jewellery to the value of \$38. It appears that Miss Bartlett, having occasion to go to Hongkong, decided to walk along Kennedy Road. She was enjoying the exercise when, just past the military magazine, she was attacked from behind by one of three Chinese whom she had seen pass her a little time before. She was dragged to the ground and the others used their "sweat cloths" which they placed round her neck and almost strangled her. Fearing that she would be murdered if she made a noise, she remained quiet. The men dragged her off the road some ten yards down the hillside and wrenched the handbag which she was carrying from her grasp. It contained two five-dollar notes and a purse in which was some silver money. They were very hurried in their movements—afraid lest someone would come along and disturb them—for they only snatched at her watch chain and took away two appendages and broke the chain. The robbers left her on the hillside, and when Miss Bartlett made sure that they had gone she regained the roadway, where she met a sergeant of the Buffs, who assisted her to the residence of Dr. Belilos. Here she was received and information was sent to the Police Station. Though the police have the matter in hand they have not succeeded in making an arrest. The men were evidently coolies. The offence is very serious, and it will be unfortunate in its effects, as it will make ladies who have hitherto been accustomed to walk along this road very nervous and apprehensive as to their safety.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY.

An extensive robbery was committed at 3, Sea View Terrace, Quarry Bay, on Sunday morning, when someone by means of a duplicate key opened a safe and stole therefrom \$153 in money, eight or nine silver prize spoons value \$12.60, silver dragon pattern cup on blackwood stand value \$25, a metal watch value \$5, oblong clock value \$2.60—total value \$198.20, the property of Mr. Crosbie. Another collection of valuables belonging to Mr. Bassford was also stolen. It included \$75 in notes, two gold breast pins value \$40, a silver rose bowl on blackwood stand inscribed "Won by W. S. Bassford, Presented by James Henry Scott for swimming," value \$40, silver bamboo pattern cup on blackwood stand inscribed "Won by W. S. Bassford for shooting: Presented by W. Murray Scott," value \$23—total value \$178. The aggregate value of the articles stolen was \$376.20.

VILLAGERS AND MAFOOS.

An extraordinary affair took place at Causeway Bay on Tuesday afternoon. It appeared that several mafos had quarrelled with some of the residents in Tai Hang, and, armed with lances used for tent pegging, proceeded to the place to inflict some chastisement on these who had incurred their wrath. The villagers, however, turned out in full force and a free fight ensued. A European named Redburn attempted to intervene, but he was assaulted for his trouble and the result was that the police had to be telephoned for. Immediately the helmets came in sight the fighting enthusiasm waned and the parties dispersed, but not before a lukong had been injured. This practically ended the affair, though it had a sequel at night when it was reported that at a certain house in Tai Hang there were weapons available for those who wished to use them and that an attack would be made on Kennedy's Stables during the night. A patrol of the stables was kept up, but nothing happened. Only two men were arrested. They were mafos, and on being brought before the Magistrate yesterday they were each sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

THE LEVYING OF DISTRESS WARRANTS.

IMPORTANT CASE AT THE MAGISTRACY.

At the Magistracy on the 1st inst. before Mr. J. R. Wood, Aryn, alias Yala, of Messrs. David Sassoon and Co., was arraigned on charges of, not being a bailiff, or acting under the Distress for Rent Ordinance of 1883, unlawfully did attempt to levy, or levy, a distress for arrears of rent.

Mr. H. L. Dennys, Jr., from the office of the Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Dennys stated that the defendant was alleged, on September 22nd, to have gone to No. 9, the Praya, Kennedy Town, a domestic building, and to have asked the people inside for rent. The rent not having been paid, the defendant was alleged to have turned the inmates out, and to have impounded certain of their goods.

His Worship—Is the defendant alleged to have done it himself, or by agent?

Mr. Dennys—Himself and by agent.

Lam Sing Chau stated that on September 22nd the defendant and a Chinaman drove her away from her house. She asked to be allowed to stay to eat her rice, but the defendant told her to go away. She said the mistress owed him money, and then witness offered to pay him a month's rent. She left all her furniture behind, and had not yet recovered it.

In cross-examination witness said she was a prostitute, and the second floor on which she lived was a brothel. Witness did not know why the mistress ran away, but she took her clothing with her. The utensils left belonged to her. The only goods belonging to the mistress were the things in the passage and the things in the cook-house. Witness was allowed to take away her clothing, but the defendant declined to let her take away anything else.

Inspector Brown, of the Registrar-General's department, stated that in consequence of a complaint made by the last witness he went to No. 9, the Praya, Kennedy Town, and found the second floor locked up. Witness sent for the rent collector and asked if he locked up the place and refused to allow the girls to take their things away. He said he did, because the mistress owed his master three months' rent. On the door being opened the last witness and other girls pointed out things belonging to them. Witness asked the collector if he would allow the girls to take their things away, and he declined.

Cross-examined—Witness instituted similar proceedings a few months ago, but he could not say why the case was dismissed.

Isn't it a fact the case was dismissed because the premises were brothels?—I believe that was the reason.

Mr. J. H. Kemp, Registrar of the Supreme Court, said the defendant was not attached to the Court, and had no authority to levy a distress.

In cross-examination witness said all distresses had to be issued by a bailiff. It was not the practice at the Registry to issue a warrant to a bailiff to distrain on a brothel, in consequence of a decision of Mr. Justice Wise. In the present case witness would have refused a warrant.

Mr. Dennys submitted that this case was an unfortunate one in many ways, because it turned upon a landlord's right personally to levy distress. In this case it was alleged that the defendant had been acting practically as a bailiff without authority of any sort. He had distrained or attempted to distrain. In this Colony it had been expressly enacted that all distresses should be levied by a public officer. Provided his Worship was satisfied with the facts, Mr. Dennys submitted that the defendant ought to be fined the maximum penalty.

Mr. Looker submitted that there was no evidence of any offence. There was no proof that the defendant actually took any overt step which resulted in these goods being locked up. In order to convict any person for usurping a bailiff's functions, it should be proved that he was the actual person who usurped those functions. On the face of the Ordinance, and the facts as proved, it was clear that the defendant

did not come within the provisions of the section. A bailiff's functions did not commence until he had got a warrant. The first thing the prosecution had to establish was that the rent which it was attempted to collect could be properly collected under the Ordinance. The premises in question being a brothel, there was no right to recover the rent.

His Worship (to Mr. Dennys)—Can you distinguish this case from the previous one?

Mr. Dennys—Yes, I believe the previous case was one in which the people were turned out. There was only one witness, and no evidence of distress at all.

Mr. Looker—The evidence was exactly the same as in this case.

Mr. Dennys contended that the Ordinance simply said rent, and did not mean rent legal to recover or otherwise. Power to distrain was vested in the bailiff, and a landlord had no right to serve a distress warrant.

His Worship said he would consider the case, and adjourned the hearing *sine die*.

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND.

By clever ruses the police have succeeded in breaking up two gambling establishments at Quarry Bay and Shaukiwan. The police knew for some time that gambling had been going on at a certain house in Shaukiwan and that it was conducted by a syndicate of ten, but the keepers of the house had developed such a system of espionage on the police that the latter could not hope to obtain access to the place while gambling was going on. Inspector Collett however, arranged with the Central authorities and when the Inspector and his detective saw the emissary from the gambling house watching them at the station they knew that gambling was in full swing at the house. The Inspector communicated with the Central, and Sergt. Appleton and a posse of police left for the scene. Meanwhile Inspector Collett took charge to show himself to the gambling house spy, who was thus thrown off his guard. In a short time Sergt. Appleton and his men reached the house and entered by the back door, taking the inmates completely by surprise. The majority of the gamblers escaped, but eleven were arrested. The police also removed the whole outfit, which included a bell on a long wire attachment with which to give the alarm, tables, chairs, cards, etc. brought before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Oct. 4th two leaders were fined \$500 each and the remainder \$3 each.

A similar ruse was carried out at Quarry Bay. The police came from Wanchai on this occasion and captured 24 gamblers, one man, who jumped out of the window, having to be taken to the hospital. In this case the two keepers were fined \$200 each and the others \$2 each.

HONGKONG'S WATER SUPPLY.

A detailed statement of the contents of the reservoirs supplying the City of Victoria and the Hill Districts, arranged according to the rain year 1908-1909, is published in the current *Gazette*. It shows that there was a constant supply of water for 276 days, and an intermittent supply by the rider mains for 89 days. The following figures are taken from the statement:—

Month.	Total Contents of Impounding Reservoirs 1st of Month.	Grand Total of Consumption.	Rain-fall.
Wet Season—			Inches
May	392,430,000	143,691,000	1.32
June	287,566,000	146,175,000	15.24
July	485,162,000	149,875,000	22.26
August	700,984,000	151,741,000	12.06
September	699,417,000	145,395,000	13.72
Dry Season—			
October	747,340,000	141,192,000	5.45
November	723,336,000	135,543,000	14
December	628,980,000	136,906,000	4.28
January	549,968,000	136,537,000	1.40
February	455,626,000	102,226,000	1.66
March	366,387,000	112,958,000	2.35
April	280,754,000	117,744,000	2.45
		1,619,993,000	82.37

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a Monthly Meeting of the General Committee held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, Chater Road, Hongkong, on Thursday, the 23rd September, 1909, at 4 p.m. President:—Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. J. R. M. Smith (Vice-Chairman), Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. J. W. C. Bonnar, A. Babington, John W. Bandow, D.R. Law, H. A. Siebs, E. Shellim and E. D. da Roza (acting for the Secretary).

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the General Committee held on the 3rd August, 1909, were confirmed.

THE BLOWING OF STEAM WHISTLES IN THE HARBOUR.

Reply from Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon:—

1 Des Voeux Road.

Hongkong, 11th August, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant.

We have always understood from Captains of ships, and generally, that the whistling regulations as originally framed worked quite satisfactorily. They are as follows:—

"9. No steamship when at anchor near or lying off the Praya, or when moored to or waiting at any wharf or landing-place, shall use the steam whistle, nor shall such steamship, when under weigh, use the steam whistle, except for the purpose of giving necessary notice of her approach towards any other vessel.

"10. No steam-ship when entering or leaving the Harbour, or when at anchor therein, shall use her steam whistle, except for the purpose of navigation or to avoid collision. The use of such steam whistle for any other purpose is hereby prohibited."

They will be found in Table "M" of the Schedule to the Ordinance as it was originally enacted.

We would recommend that the shipping members of your Committee make enquiries of their Captains as to whether the regulations as quoted above are not satisfactory, or whether they would suggest any amendments.

It will probably be clear to your Committee that it is the views of the Captains themselves which are really important on a point like this. —We have, &c.,

DEACON, LOOKER & DEACON.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,

Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

The following acknowledgement was sent to Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

12th August, 1909.

DEAR SIRS,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your reply of 11th August, 1909, to my letter of the 7th idem on the subject of the blowing of steam whistles in the Harbour and to state that the contents thereof have been brought to the attention of my Committee.—I am, &c.

E. A. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

The following letter was addressed to the Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 29th September, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed by my Committee to address you on the subject of Regulation No. 2 of Table "M" of the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance No. 10 of 1899 and its relation to the control of nuisances caused by the unnecessary blowing of steam whistles in the Harbour.

The effect of the present regulations is, that unless the steamship blow her whistle when in the waters of the Colony strictly for the purpose of regulations 15, 28 and 31 of the regulations for preventing collision at sea, a nuisance is committed for which the Master can be fined.

My Committee are given to understand it is the invariable practice of seamen, both in the waters of this Colony and in other crowded anchorages, to give a warning on the whistle of

a steamship's approach to small craft, whose presence or course might constitute danger either to themselves or to the steamship.

This warning is necessary from steamers approaching their buoys or wharves under their own way and thus under little control.

Still more is it required in a Harbour congested with small craft and subject to the influence of tides.

Under regulation No. 21, as at present framed, a steamship cannot adopt the customary method of warning small craft without being liable to conviction for a nuisance.

On the assumption that the giving of these warnings is in accordance with the ordinary practice of seamen, Regulation 21 would also seem to be contrary to regulation No. 6 of Table "M," which reads:-

"6. All vessels irrespective of size shall, whether in a fairway or not, observe the International Collision Regulations, and no vessel whatever shall anchor in any of the fairways."

and likewise to regulation No. 29 for preventing collisions at sea.

The result of enquiries made of Masters of vessels through the shipping members of my Chamber, is the unanimous opinion that, in order to prevent accident to small craft and possible loss of life, the use of steam whistles in the Harbour to warn native boats of the approach of a steamer is an absolute necessity, and it is considered that the case would be met by a reversion to the regulations, as originally framed, a copy of which is annexed.

My Committee trust that His Excellency the Governor may give this matter his consideration and that he may see his way to make a much needed reform.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson,
Colonial Secretary,

Regulations Nos. 9 and 10 in Table "M" of the Schedule to the Ordinance as it was originally enacted.

"9. No Steamship when at anchor near or lying off the Praya, or when moored to or waiting at any wharf or landing place, shall use the steam whistle, nor shall such steamship, when under way use the steam-whistle, except for the purpose of giving necessary notice of her approach towards any other vessel.

"10. No Steamship when entering or leaving the Harbour, or when at anchor therein, shall use her steam-whistle, except for the purpose of navigation or to avoid collision. The use of such steam-whistle for any other purpose is hereby prohibited."

QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST HONGKONG.

Letter to Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
20th August, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to point out that from the returns of communicable diseases for the three weeks ended July 31st, August 7th, and August 14th, the cases of bubonic plague were, respectively, 2, 3, and nil.

My Committee trust that some steps may be taken by His Excellency the Governor towards securing the removal of the vexatious quarantine measures by Ports notified under Notification 502 of the Government Gazette of the 13th instant.—I am, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson,
Colonial Secretary.

Reply from Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
24th August, 1909,

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 20th instant, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency proposes to await the issue of clean bills of health before making representations to the various ports imposing quarantine restrictions against Hongkong. The last case of plague occurred on 18th instant and the date of issue, unless any further case is reported in the meantime, will therefore be Saturday next.—I am, &c.,

A. M. THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

THE ANTI-OP IUM MOVEMENT IN CHINA.

OP IUM SUPPRESSION.

With reference to the entire suppression of the opium evil in China, a native report says that the Anti-Opium Commissioners have decided that plantation of native opium should be reduced year by year and entirely prohibited in the 4th year of Hsuan Tung. Beginning from the next year a government monopoly will be established for opium, which will also be gradually reduced, until it is entirely suppressed in the 8th year of Hsuan Tung (1916). The consent of the Diplomatic Corps in Peking will shortly be obtained to this proposal. The Prince Regent is reported to have shown great impatience at the delay of the Commissioners in reporting on a memorial containing suggestions in regard to opium prohibition, and he accordingly asked more than once for the report. It is also stated that a Censor has resolved severely to denounce a high Minister, who broke off opium-smoking but has since relapsed into the evil habit.

SHANSI.

It is reported that in a memorial presented to the Throne H. E. Pao, Governor of Shansi, stated that all the lands amounting to over 350,000 *mu* formerly devoted to the cultivation of the poppy have been converted either into cotton or indigo plantations since the spring, and now no more ground is used for opium cultivation in that province. The number of smokers is gradually declining.

SZECHUAN.

The Tartar General, H. E. Mo in not behind officials in other provinces in the work of suppressing the opium evils, says the *Peking Daily News*. From the time of his arrival there last winter up to the second moon this year he had caused many opium dens to be closed up and had ordered the Banhermen who were formerly opium cultivators to plant mulberry trees on the vacant places along the city suburbs and the parade grounds. Over 50,000 have been planted, and they are thriving very satisfactorily. He had suspended 31 officials from office on account of their craving for the drug and allowed them a limited time in which to reform. He had 906 soldiers admitted into the opium-curing Hospital to get rid of the habit. All employed in the Government services, students, and the like have been warned that if they are smokers they must give up the habit at once or they will be severely dealt with.

SHANTUNG.

There appears to be no doubt that in Taianfu and the adjoining counties of Lurwu and Hsintai the opium regulations have been taken seriously, writes a correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News*. Little or no land has been under the poppy this year, except, in a few special cases where permission has been granted to cultivate one or two acres in return for some special service—as in the case of a doctor who had treated the son of a magistrate successfully. Severe punishment, in the shape of fines, imprisonment and canguing, has been meted out impartially to those who have attempted to evade the law, accompanied in all cases by the destruction of the young crops—and so, for once, we have the inspiring spectacle of the Chinese official energetically carrying out his instructions. How long this state of things will last remains to be seen. The people have offered no opposition to the regulations and generally welcome them, and so it would seem that the success of the undertaking depends entirely on the officials whose business it is to see the thing through.

The immediate consequence, of course, is a great rise in the price of the drug which necessarily falls most heavily on the poorer class of smoker, though against this may be put the slightly cheaper price of foodstuffs due to the larger quantity of land-bearing grain, etc. I have been told, however, that land which has been long under the poppy bears poor grain for a year or two.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF OP IUM FROM YUNNAN.

A correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* writes on this subject as follows:—

Where are the long strings of colliers carrying opium down to Hunan, Kwangsi and Tonking? They have gone home empty-handed. Wheat,

corn, beans, peas, rice, cotton, etc., have replaced the poppy in the fields; and the Yunnanese, who once depended on the opium trade for a livelihood seem to thrive better on wheat, rice and other cereals. Here is one man, who last year was seldom seen on the streets; he was smoking opium and talking most of the night and sleeping during the day; now he is working in the fields beside his wife, who has kept life in him during the years that were wasted at the opium pipe. The price of rice and other foodstuffs rose and rose above poor people's heads; now they can feed well on a fraction of what it once cost, while at the same time wages are kept fairly high. I was told not long ago that the suppression of opium "spelt the ruin of Yunnan." The very reverse is the real truth. As regards foreign goods, there has never been greater demand in Yunnan, and the demand will increase with the increasing prosperity of the province.

The cities, towns and villages seem to have got a new lease of life. Old, tumble-down houses are rebuilt; fresh shops are opened; vegetable and meat-sellers have been cleared off the streets into markets appointed for them. The Government is spending large sums of money in erecting universities, schools, mints, arsenals, armouries, powder magazines, barracks, offices, reformatories, prisons, industrial establishments, botanical and zoological gardens, etc., all in, or after, foreign style.

The latest is a tax of one cash per cup of tea drunk in public tea-houses. With this revenue they propose to erect immense reformatories for the several thousands of fallen women in Yunnanfu. The brothels will then be closed and offenders severely punished.

There is even talk of electric light and water works, but capital is not forthcoming yet. Telephone poles, carrying 8 to 10 wires, are not uncommon in the city.

About the end of this year the railway whistle will be heard at the south gate, where the Government is building "a foreign street" in anticipation—of big returns.

The people, moreover, buy Bible portions and Christian literature as never before. There are openings on every hand for Christian work among Chinese and aborigines.

An astonishing thing occurred just recently at the *likin* station of Pingi. It appears that till just recently opium has been allowed to pass through from Kweichow to Tonking upon the payment of a special tax. A body of Kuiksingfu merchants sent into Kweichow for some thirty-five horse-loads of opium, upon the strength of a proclamation from the Pingi Magistrate granting them right of passing to a certain date. The opium arrived in good time, the extra tax of some Tls. 4,000 was paid over to the Magistrate, but the *likin* officer refused it till paid another sum for himself; it is said. They promised him the sum, but had to go two days' journey for the silver. The fixed day passed by before they could return with the silver, and he then wired the case to the Viceroy, who gave orders to burn the whole amount—which was done. The *likin* officials and the Magistrate are said to have been on bad terms—hence the incident.

One merchant alone suffers to the amount of \$20,000. This is one of the many curious cases of mingled justice, fraud and honesty constantly occurring in China.

THE OP IUM FARM.

We learn from an authentic source that the tender of Ho Shai-Kit, amounting to \$98,600 for the three years' lease of the Hongkong Opium Farm, has been accepted by the Hongkong Government. Mr. Ho Shai-Kit is the son of Mr. Ho Kom Tong, who is associated with several well-known local gentlemen in the formation of a strong syndicate to carry on the farm. The accepted tender was the second highest, being only \$150 a month less than the offer of Ku Yu-shan, Leung Kin-sang and Ng Ming Sau, while it was \$2,600 higher than the tender of the present Farmer, Mr. Luk Yau. The other tender was from Mr. She Ying-luk, amounting to \$91,000. The government revenue from the farm in the next three years will therefore be \$268,800 per annum less than the present rental.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 1st October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J.
GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE).

CAPTAIN'S ALLEGED WRONGFUL DISMISSAL.

The action was mentioned in which Captain W. Cooper, lately master of the s.s. *Tak Hing*, sued the Sze Yap S.S. Co., of Hongkong, for \$858.33, for wrongful dismissal on September 15th, 1909, \$750 being three months' wages in lieu of notice. Mr. Reader Harris (from the office of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. P. S. Dixon (from the office of Mr. R. Harding) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Harris applied for an order for pleadings. He said he could easily prove wrongful dismissal, but he did not know what allegations of misconduct defendants were going to make.

Mr. Dixon said if the case were adjourned for a week they might come to a settlement.

The hearing was fixed for Monday week.

ALLEGED BREACH OF AGREEMENT.

E. Kennedy brought action against Mak Nam Woon, proprietor of the Belle View Hotel, to recover \$1,000, \$500 being for alleged breach of agreement whereby defendant agreed to employ plaintiff as manager, and the remaining \$500 for damages caused to the plaintiff by the wilful act of defendant in preventing plaintiff from continuing his application for a licence under the Liquor Ordinance of 1908. Mr. Reader Harris (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. X. d'Almada Castro for defendant.

Mr. d'Almada asked his Lordship to order pleadings or else full particulars of the second portion of the claim.

Mr. Harris said it was impossible to furnish particulars of the second portion, but he could call witnesses who would state that in their opinion plaintiff's character had suffered.

Mr. d'Almada said particulars of the first \$500 would not satisfy him.

Mr. Harris argued that particulars of damages were not given in a libel action. His client was prevented from continuing his application for a licence, and several of his friends came to him and said they were sorry to see that his application had been refused by the Justices. One week they advertised his name in the newspaper and the next somebody's else.

His Lordship ordered Mr. Harris to furnish Mr. d'Almada with such particulars as he could of the facts in regard to the second claim.

The hearing was then fixed for Thursday week.

AN AMAH'S CLAIM.

Lai Juhn, an amah, sued Jessie Walker, of 9 Morrison Hill Gap, for \$70.80, money lent on three different occasions.

When the case was called plaintiff produced a paper, which defendant said she would like to see. Plaintiff spoke to the defendant, who stated that the amah wished her to speak Chinese.

Defendant said that the money which she claimed had already been paid, but that the plaintiff stole the paper produced. She also stole a five dollar bill for which the defendant dismissed her.

Plaintiff stated that she was formerly in the employ of the defendant as amah, and that her mistress borrowed money from her with which to pay the rent. She advanced other small amounts after that.

Defendant asserted that she had paid the money which she had borrowed and declared that she did not owe her a cash, not even for wages. The plaintiff stole a five dollar bill and, defendant had her locked up for an hour or two and finally called a policeman.

A witness for the defence stated that she was present when her mistress paid \$39.80 to the plaintiff. Defendant admitted that she thought the amount borrowed was \$38.

His Lordship adjourned the hearing for a week to permit of another witness being called.

Friday, October 8th.

A LAW OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS.

The case was called on in which the Mow Lee firm sued the Kut Heung firm to recover \$46.18 for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. A. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs, the defendants being represented by Mr. M. Reader Harris (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist).

Mr. Jackson asked that the case should be taken third on Monday morning.

Mr. Harris—There won't be time.

Mr. Jackson—Then I'd ask your Lordship to take it on Monday afternoon.

His Lordship—It is still vacation. The law of the Medes and Persians designs it so, but I am not particular.

The hearing was eventually fixed for next Saturday.

AN ABSENT DEFENDANT.

The Dairy Farm Co. brought action against Mrs. F. Pettingell to recover \$91.51 for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. H. L. Dennys, Jr., from the office of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. Reader Harris represented the tenant of defendant's house.

Mr. Harris informed His Lordship that the defendant had been in Shanghai for some time, and money had been paid by the present tenant, who did not wish the furniture distrained on. He was quite willing to take an order for judgment with a stay of execution, but his client did not feel inclined to pay up the costs for substituted service. The tenant had paid up the amount of the claim and the costs endorsed on the writ.

His Lordship—The order for substituted service stands.

Mr. Harris—If the writ was taken out before Mrs. Pettingell left?

His Lordship—I don't know anything about that, but there has been no application to set it aside.

Mr. Harris—All I ask is for a stay of execution as to the balance of costs.

His Lordship—For how long?

Mr. Harris—Mrs. Pettingell will be back in a month or two.

Mr. Dennys—We don't admit she is in Shanghai.

His Lordship—I don't remember why I made the order, but I must presume now that I made it properly. Is there an agreement of tenancy?

Mr. Harris—I don't think the tenant has taken over the whole house as it stands.

Mr. Dennys—This debt was certainly known by the tenant on September 9th, and the defendant was seen in Hongkong on that day, and has been seen subsequently.

Mr. Harris—We only ask for a stay of execution. If plaintiffs write to Mrs. Pettingell they will get the money. It is an unfortunate thing when a person who owes money goes away, but I am quite sure the defendant is only absent on a holiday.

His Lordship—She has presumably heard about the claim. I will give you a week.

Mr. Dennys—I cannot consent to any adjournment.

His Lordship—I will give judgment for the plaintiffs, and a stay of execution for a week.

Mr. Dennys—The furniture may be removed by that time.

Mr. Harris—It is not likely. The place is a boarding-house.

His Lordship—I don't know anything about that.

Mr. Harris—The tenant wouldn't pay up \$104 out of her own pocket if she intended to remove the furniture. Will your Lordship grant me a stay of execution for a fortnight?

His Lordship—I can't give you more than a week.

Mr. Harris—Then I don't want a stay at all. I don't admit the claim on behalf of Mrs. Pettingell.

Mr. Mauuk, assistant secretary of the Dairy Farm, gave evidence as to the amount being due and owing.

Mr. Dennys said there were a great many writs out against the defendant.

Mr. Harris—The money has been paid into Court, but not with an admission of liability.

His Lordship entered judgment for plaintiff with costs, the costs to be taxed and Mr. Harris to be given notice.

ENGINEER'S CERTIFICATE
SUSPENDED.

An inquiry into alleged charges of misconduct against R. H. Ferguson, third engineer on s.s. *Persia*, was conducted at the Harbour Office on Oct. 8. The Court was constituted as follows: Lieut. Beckwith, Assistant Harbour Master, president; Lieut. Butterworth, H.M.S. *Tamar*; Mr. Donald Macdonald, of Macdonald & Co., engineers; and Mr. William James Best, chief engineer s.s. *Lightning*. The inquiry was held at the instance of the Pacific Mail Co., for whom Mr. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared to prosecute. Mr. S. Silverstone was also present. The President read the letter of complaint from the Pacific Mail S.S. Co., and also the warrant constituting the Court.

Mr. Gedge informed the Court that the *Persia* left Hongkong on 3rd September with the defendant as third engineer. A message was received from Waglan asking for two engineers, and accordingly Mr. Macnider, superintendent of the Eng Hok Fong, S.S. Co., went out to the steamer with two engineers. When they got there Mr. Macnider was informed that the second engineer had died and was buried at sea and that the third engineer was so incapably drunk in his berth that he had to be brought before the master to sign off the articles. He was taken to the launch and brought back to Hongkong.

Mr. S. S. Macnider, superintendent of the Eng Hok Fong Steamship Coy., who were charterers of the *Persia* from the Pacific Mail S.S. Co., said that on 3rd September a message was received from Waglan asking for two engineers. The engineers were secured and witness and the engineers left in a launch from Blake Pier for the *Persia*, which was anchored off Waglan. He was accompanied by Mr. White, of the Pacific Mail, and two of the Chinese proprietors. On boarding the *Persia* he received a report from the Captain that the second engineer had died of heat apoplexy and that the third engineer was drunk and incapable. Ferguson was brought from his cabin to the Captain's cabin, where he was signed off the articles. He was not only helplessly drunk, but he was exceedingly filthy. A little later he was put on board a launch and taken to Hongkong.

The Captain's report stated that the third engineer had been so drunk that he could not be trusted in the engine-room.

Was he more sober on arrival in Hongkong?—Well, he was less drunk.

Mr. H. L. White, bookkeeper in the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., said he accompanied Mr. Macnider on the occasion mentioned. Witness corroborated the testimony of Mr. Macnider as to what took place on board the *Persia*.

Defendant said that he held a first-class certificate granted by the Board of Trade at Glasgow. He joined the *Persia* as fourth engineer on 13th August, but he signed articles as third on 1st September. He was sober on the day the steamer sailed. As the second engineer was sick he took his duty and at eight o'clock that night the chief engineer told him to go to sleep. Some time in the middle watch, about three o'clock in the morning, he was awakened and informed that the second engineer had died. He went on duty for several hours and then went up and had two drinks. It was that that upset him.

The President—You were overcome by the death of Mr. Scott?—That and the fact that I was dead tired.

You took a couple of drinks?—Yes.

Couple of bottles?—No, I was dead tired and that knocked me over.

Defendant was questioned as to the length of time he had been in the East and as to the appointments he held. He produced several credentials.

The President remarked that in his reference from the China Navigation Co. there was no reference as to his sobriety, which was an important omission.

The finding of the Court was as follows: We find you, Robert Henry Ferguson, guilty of gross misconduct on September 2nd and 3rd on board s.s. *Persia* by being in a filthy state of intoxication, and so as to be incapable of carrying out your duty, thereby causing serious delay and expense to your owners, the ship having to an-

chor and communicate again with Hongkong so as to get you relieved before proceeding on her voyage. We therefore order your certificate as engineer to be suspended for one year.

ASSAULT ON THE S.S. "PHRANANG."

UNCOOKED POTATOES CAUSE TROUBLE.

The second officer of the German steamer *Phranang* summoned the head cook of the same vessel before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 8th inst. on a charge of assault.

Complainant informed the Court that the potatoes for dinner were not properly cooked, and when he went to complain to the defendant, the latter got cheeky. Witness raised his hand as though to strike, and the cook dealt him a blow on the eye with a saucepan.

His Worship drew complainant's attention to the swollen face of the cook, and asked how he had been damaged.

Complainant said the second engineer did that afterwards.

The second engineer was called, and testified to hearing the altercation in the galley. When he entered the cook feinted as though he was going to hit him, and witness took away the saucepan. Thereupon the cook looked round in search of some other weapon, so the witness struck him five or six hard blows.

Defendant's story was that when the complainant entered the galley he attempted to strike him, and he raised the saucepan to defend himself. The lid flew off and hit the complainant on the eye. The second engineer then entered, and after the officers had given him a good beating they locked him up.

His Worship said he would inflict a lenient fine, as he believed the defendant's story. The cook had been badly treated in an unwarranted manner by the complainant. A fine of \$10 would be imposed.

A NEW TERRITORY ROBBERY.

UNWIELDY EXHIBITS.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on the 8th inst. Yeung Wong Kai and Mak Chun were indicted on a charge of armed robbery, with others not in custody, at Lam-sha-u, New Territory, on the 13th ultimo.

Inspector Robertson prosecuted, and Mr. Davidson (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the second defendant.

His Worship—What exhibits have you got, Inspector Robertson?

Inspector Robertson—Torches and weapons.

His Worship—And cattle?

Inspector Robertson—They are at Kennedy Town.

His Worship—Not in the Police Compound?

Inspector Robertson—We could not very well bring them up.

The Inspector then informed the Court that the robbery took place at a village on the 13th ultimo, and amongst other property stolen were two bullocks, which were found in the possession of the second defendant, and which the complainant identified as his.

Complainant then informed the Court that on the date mentioned, at 11 p.m., a hole was forced in the door of his residence, a torch was pushed through, and two men followed it. The door was then opened and other men entered the house. All were armed. They proceeded to ransack his dwelling, and departed with the greater part of his wardrobe, besides taking three buffaloes and two bullocks.

Further evidence was heard, and the case adjourned.

At the last meeting of the Kulangsu (Amoy) Municipal Council a letter was read from the Mixed Court Magistrate submitting a proclamation concerning singing girls, &c., for the approval of the Council. The Council approved the issue of the proclamation, but the Secretary was instructed to call the Mixed Court Magistrate's attention to the fact that all proclamations for publication within the Settlement of Kulangsu must be issued in the name of the Kulangsu Municipal Council, in whom the power of making and issuing Police and other Regulations is vested.

THE BUTLER WRIGHT CASE.

THE APPLICATION AT SHANGHAI FOR CHANGE OF VENUE.

The following affidavit was made for a change of the venue of trial to Shanghai by the accused, in support of an application:—

I, William Butler Wright, of Shameen, Canton, in the Empire of China, make oath and say as follows:—

1—I have been committed for trial upon four several charges of larceny of sums of \$21,526, \$13,000, \$5,000 and \$4,000, money of and belonging to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China.

2—Upon learning the case for the prosecution it appeared that the Managing Director of the Canton-Kowloon Railway, the representative of the Emperor of China in this matter, in no way consented to the institution of this prosecution, but that the same was instituted upon the personal initiative of one Frank Grove, Chief-Engineer and a fellow employee with me of the railway.

3—I have been arrested on these charges without notice and without being given any opportunity to offer any explanation of matter in account, and I believe that in the institution of this prosecution as well as in its conduct, a certain amount of animus and personal feeling towards me has played no inconsiderable part. This personal feeling against me, extends throughout the whole of the Shameen where I have many enemies and absolutely no friends. In proof of this I may state that though I have resided there for 24 months, have been a member of all the Clubs, taken a prominent part in the life of the place and done kindnesses to many, I have found on my arrest no persons to come forward and give the necessary security to enable me to be released from custody.

4—The matter of my arrest and charge has been fully discussed in all the Clubs and bars of the place and although the public, which is very small and limited to about one hundred persons, have not yet been told my side of the story, they all seem to be fully convinced that I am guilty.

5—In consequence of the above fact and in view of all circumstances of the case I conscientiously believe that it will not be possible for me to obtain fair and impartial trial before a jury of my fellow-countrymen in Canton.

The Judge, not without some reluctance, refused the application.

DEATHS FROM FLOGGING IN FORMOSA.

TRIAL OF A POLICE INSPECTOR—TEXT OF JUDGMENT.

The trial took place some time ago in the Tainan Court of Shiina Minosuke, an assistant police inspector in the Choshusho branch of the Ako District office, Formosa, on a charge of manslaughter, but the case was dismissed.

In reply to questions by Judge Uno, the accused stated that, while serving as a police officer in the Choshusho branch of the Ako District Office, he arrested Chin Fuk-an and seven other Formosans on a charge of gambling and subjected them to flogging, the punishment being continued for four days. About 3 p.m. on May 17th last, after the sentence of flogging had been carried out, Chin Fuk-an died, another criminal, To Kau, succumbed the following day, and still another about 5 a.m. on May 23rd. In his interpretation of the Regulation relating to flogging, the accused understood that it was not necessary to have criminals examined by a doctor to ascertain their physical condition when flogging was imposed. At the time the punishment was meted out, Chin and the two others who died appeared to be in the best of health. All the criminals had been subjected to flogging for the four days, each being given 81 strokes, and no medical examination of their condition was instituted. Subsequently the accused received a report from a policeman that three of the men flogged had died. Thereupon he carefully read the Flogging Regulation and assured himself that he was authorised to inflict the penalty on his own responsibility. On being examined by a Procurator, he saw for the

first time that his interpretation of the Regulation was erroneous.

Judgment was delivered on July 24th, when the accused was acquitted. In giving the reasons for the judgment, says the *Japan Chronicle*, the Court points out that the official indictment in this case is to the effect that the accused, who was a police officer, presided over the execution of a penalty of 81 blows, extending over the 13th to the 16th May, passed on Chin Fuk-an and seven others on a charge of gambling. In executing the penalty of flogging, it is necessary for the officer in charge to obtain medical examination of the condition of the criminals in order to ascertain if their health will allow them to bear the punishment provided by the Regulation, unless the services of a doctor are unobtainable. The accused had ignored the Regulation and omitted this process, though the services of a doctor could have been procured, and decided on his own responsibility that the men could bear the infliction of the penalty. He had accordingly carried it out, and thereby caused three of the criminals to die. The accused was well aware of the provision of the Regulation, and yet he had omitted to comply with it. In this he was guilty of serious carelessness. In fully examining the case, however, it must be borne in mind that it is a fundamental principle of law that any action or decision of a Government authority must always be regarded as legitimate or valid and that such action or decision can only be invalidated where it is possible to cancel or amend it. If, therefore, any omissions were made in the process of a decision issued by a court of law or in the execution of such a decision, the decision or the execution of the decision would be valid, and the only course left to be taken by the parties concerned would be to seek redress or relief from the court of law. This principle applies to the carrying out of the penalty of flogging in this case. It is also a fundamental principle of law that Government officials are not responsible for the result of the execution of a Law or an Ordinance, except in cases where provisions are made to the contrary. A distinct provision exists to this effect in Article 35 of the Criminal Code in regard to criminal cases. "Acts performed in accordance with the Laws and Ordinances, or in carrying on one's lawful and proper business, are not punishable." The action of executing the flogging penalty is the exercise of the State's right to punish law-breakers, and it is quite natural that such a penalty should cause pain to the persons punished, and that their bodies should be affected in some way. Such an effect must be expected from the first in the nature of the penalty. If police officers who have presided over the execution of a penalty be held criminally responsible for injury caused to the bodies of criminals in consequence of the execution of the sentence the result would be ridiculous. In considering the facts set forth in the official indictment, it is evident that they are the result of official action by the accused done in virtue of the law. In consequence his action should not be punished criminally, though he may be subjected by administrative means to disciplinary punishment. At this point the case is mature for decision, and there is no need to establish the relation between the deaths and the flogging.

The Procurator appealed on the 27th July to the Supreme Court from the decision by which Shiina was acquitted.

MANILA'S NEW TARIFF.

Hitherto invoices for goods entering Manila have had to be accompanied by a solemn declaration. The tariff now, in addition to altering the duties, requires in regard to consular invoices that they must be executed in quadruple, instead of in triplicate, as before. Quantities must be stated in terms of the Tariff Act. That is to say, that where goods are on the basis of weight, measurement must be stated in the metric system, and where they are on the basis of liquid measure, quantities must be stated in the metric system also. It is also required that invoices must be sworn to, so that traders sending goods to Manila from Hongkong will have to swear to such goods.

COMPANY REPORT.

THE DAIRY FARM COMPANY,
LIMITED.

The report for presentation to shareholders at the thirteenth ordinary yearly meeting, to be held on Tuesday, the 19th inst. is as follows:—

The directors herewith present to the shareholders a statement of the Company's accounts for the year ended 31st July, 1909.

The profit for the year, after writing off \$18,510.11 for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts, and providing for directors' and auditor's fees, amounts to \$61,850.01, from which it is proposed to pay a dividend of one dollar and twenty cents per share, absorbing \$48,000; to transfer to reserve fund, \$10,000; to fire and typhoon insurance fund, \$2,000; and to carry forward, \$1,850.01.

Capital.—In accordance with the resolution passed on 17th November and confirmed on 1st December, 1908, the paid-up capital of the Company has been increased to \$240,000, as set forth in the accounts.

Directors.—Messrs. F. Maitland and E. H. Hinds retire, but are eligible for re-election.

Auditor.—The annexed accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for re-election at this meeting.

EDWARD OSBORNE,
Chairman.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the Year ended 31st July. 1909.

Dr.	
To directors' and auditor's fees...	\$2,700.00
To repairs and renewals ...	7,918.7
To land cultivation and improvement ...	2,148.17
To exchange ...	259.28
To written off:—Bad and doubtful debts ...	\$1,437.78
Cattle ...	5,807.66
Buildings ...	4,939.05
Furniture, machinery and stores ...	6,325.62
To balance ...	18,510.11
	61,850.01
	\$93,386.54
Cr:	
By balance from last year ...	\$48.39
By sale of unallotted new shares ...	126.00
By interest ...	2,934.66
By scrip fees ...	61.0
By bad debts recovered ...	26.99
By balance of working account ...	90,189.50
	\$93,386.54

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST JULY, 1909.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital:—	
As per last account, 25,000 shares at \$7.50 each ...	\$187,500
Less \$1.50 per share not called up ...	37,500
	150,000
Transferred from reserve fund as authorised by the special resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meetings held on 17th November and 1st December, 1908 ...	90,000
	\$240,000.00
Equalling value of 15,000 shares at \$7.50 each less \$1.50 per share not called up.	
Unclaimed dividends ...	361.50
Cattle reserve ...	10,000.00
Fire and typhoon insurance fund ...	8,000.00
Accounts payable ...	38,183.84
Balance of profit and loss account ...	61,850.01
	\$358,398.35
ASSETS.	
Cattle ...	\$ 85,807.66
Less written off ...	5,807.66
	\$ 80,000.00

Buildings and property ...	\$109,939.05
Less written off ...	4,039.05
	105,900.00
Furniture, machinery and stores ...	\$ 18,325.62
Less written off ...	6,325.62
	12,000.00
Share investment and mortgages	69,325.00
Steam launch ...	3,000.00
Accounts receivable ...	44,827.65
Stocks on hand ...	44,245.70
	\$358,398.35

M. MANUK,
Acting Secretary.

I have compared the above statement with the books, vouchers and securities of the Company and have found the same in accordance therewith.

W. HUTTON POTTS,
Auditor.

Hongkong, 29th September, 1909.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE,
LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-eighth ordinary meeting, on Friday, the 22nd inst., is as follows:—

The General Agents and Consulting Committee beg to submit to the shareholders the final accounts for the year 1908.

1908 Account.—The amount standing to the credit of this account is \$294,300.59, out of which it is proposed to carry \$194,300.59 to the credit of underwriting suspense account, which will then stand at \$302,799.71, and to pay a dividend of \$10.00 per share, absorbing \$100,000.

Consulting Committee.—Since the last meeting Mr. G. C. Moxon resigned his seat, and Mr. D. W. Craddock was invited to fill the vacancy.

In accordance with the terms of the articles of association all the members retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and H. Percy Smith, F.C.A., who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
General Agents.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital—10,000 shares of \$250 each—\$2,500,000, of which \$50 per share has been paid up ...	\$500,000.00
Reserve fund ...	1,560,000.00
Re-insurance fund ...	254,583.08
Underwriting suspense account ...	108,499.12
Outstanding dividends ...	12,456.00
Accounts payable ...	354,289.10
Balance of working account, 1908 ...	294,300.59
	\$3,084,107.89
ASSETS.	
Cash, on current account with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...	57,423.64
Fixed deposits, with banks in Hongkong ...	225,000.00
Mortgages on property in Hongkong and Shanghai ...	2,145,528.52
Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf Company, Ltd., debentures ...	66,666.67
Shanghai Club debentures ...	13,333.33
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1886 ...	36,295.35
United States bonds (4 per cent. loan, 1925) ...	400,000.00
Japanese Government gold loan ...	47,009.83
Japanese Government deposit:—Consolidation bonds ...	\$56,066.04
Imperial bonds ...	23,993.15
War bonds ...	12,791.36
	92,850.55
	\$3,084,107.89
WORKING ACCOUNT, 1908.	
Losses and claims paid ...	\$1,203,148.82
Charges, including directors', auditors' and survey fees, agents expenses, &c. ...	89,824.09
Commissions ...	139,987.09
Balance as above ...	294,300.59
	\$1,727,260.59

Net premia received, less returns and re-insurances ...	\$1,481,114.34
Interest ...	212,877.44
Transfer fees ...	62.00
Exchange ...	33,206.81
	\$1,727,260.59

THE DAI NIPPON SUGAR REFINING
COMPANY.

A general meeting of this Company was to be held on the 15th ult. Not much expectation seems to have been entertained that a working programme could be at once evolved. The Company's total liabilities are said to be 17,122,190 yen. Its assets amount to 25,092,433 yen, but of course the great part of this latter figure represents fixed property which could not readily be converted into cash. The net profits accruing from the industry can scarcely exceed 1,150,000 yen annually. It is proposed to issue preferential shares to the amount of 3,300,000 yen carrying 7 per cent. interest, and to hand these to the unsecured creditors in full payment of their debts. But this plan is confronted by a legal difficulty, namely, that such shares can not be issued until the total capital is paid up, whereas 3,600,000 yen remains to be paid and could not possibly be called up at present. It is difficult to see therefore how this plan could be carried out. It includes a project for spreading over a period of 10 years the customs duties owing to the Government, and paying them by annual installments of 122,000 yen. Further concessions would have to be obtained also from other creditors, and altogether the programme seems very difficult of realization. There is another plan upon the tapis, but it involves leaving the shareholders without any dividend whatever for 8 or 9 years.—*Japan Mail*.

SHANGHAI DIVIDENDS.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the North China Insurance Co., Ltd., held on Tuesday, the 27th ult., a final dividend for the year 1908 of 7½ per cent. on the paid-up capital at exchange 2s. 3½d, and a bonus of 15 per cent. to contributors, was recommended.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Kalumpung Rubber Co., Ltd., held last week, it was decided to recommend the payment of a dividend subject to the audit of the accounts, of 11s. per share (16 per cent.) for the year ending August 31, 1909.

THE TRADE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The annual report of the Insular Collector of Customs shows that the increase of customs collections for 1909 over 1908 amounted to \$220,000. The increase occurred during the last six months of the fiscal year, as during the first six months there was a decrease of \$20,000 compared to the receipts for the same period of the previous year. The increase was mainly in exports, on which the duty amounted to \$273,000 more than that collected in 1908.

All figures are in United States currency. The value of imported foreign merchandise amounted to \$27,794,482, exports to \$31,044,451. The decrease of the former from last year amounted to \$3,124,263, the latter to \$1,785,358. The total foreign trade amounted to \$51,838,940, while the returns for the previous fiscal year were \$4,909,921 more.

The hull pending the enactment of the new Philippine tariff, the loss of opium revenues, and bonding of great quantities of merchandise are held accountable for this temporary falling off of trade.

THE RICE CROP IN SIAM.

In places the growing crop in Siam looks as good as anyone could wish to see it; in other places it is a failure. On the whole the outlook is satisfactory. The failures referred to are, in part, to be attributed to want of seed grain to sow again in the place of that destroyed by floods. In Nakon Nayok district to the east, and in Monthon Ratturi to the west the water has gone down and more would be welcomed; in the watershed of the Menam Chao Phya there is plenty of water, and a possibility of considerable more.—*Bangkok Times*.

LOCAL SPORT.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

Kowloon made a good start last Saturday by defeating "H" Coy. Buffs. A want of understanding among the forwards of Kowloon prevented them from taking advantage of many openings that occurred, but of course in any team good combination can only result after a good knowledge of each other's play.

The "Sappers" with a little practice should manage to give any of the league teams a good run for points. They had to turn out on Saturday without Meaney, their popular centre forward, but bar accidents they hope to be at full strength on Saturday against the Club.

Practice has not yet commenced on the Club ground this season, but a six-a-side competition will commence some time this week. Entries closed yesterday and I understand the entry is a record one.

Military teams have been notified by the Hon. Secretary of the Garrison Recreation Club that no matches must be played on the Military Ground before Monday, 11th instant. This means that the match Buffs v. Naval Yard, which should be played on Saturday, must either be played on the Naval Ground or postponed till some future date.

It is certainly hard on the league committee to have their arrangements upset so early in the season, but there can be no doubt the extra week's rolling will do the Military ground a lot of good, as there are still a few bumpy places.

"B" Coy. Buffs are expected to take the place of the Departmentals in the second division of the league, and the Secretary, Mr. A. Ellis, B.O.C., is only waiting for a definite answer before publishing the fixtures.

A warning to referees. Take care that incidents which incur penalties are not accidents, or it may be the peculiarities of individual players. Rules are not made to be broken; but in putting any rules of football into force a referee must use his discretion to a great extent. If a referee makes a mistake or thinks he has made one let him consult his linesmen, whether neutral or not. Things of this kind add to the confidence spectators and players put in a referee, and without the confidence of spectators and players a referee is better off the field.

An emergency committee, composed of Mr. A. P. Storrie, Mr. Frank Browne, and Sapper Heigh as Military member, was elected at the last league meeting to deal with any matters requiring immediate attention.

The transfer question was settled to everybody's satisfaction, and in case of any transfer being applied for Secretary Storrie must be notified.

REFEREE.

CRICKET NOTES.

Cricketers, or rather cricket clubs, are somewhat slower in getting down to serious work this year than at the commencement of previous seasons. That does not necessarily mean that cricketers are less enthusiastic; the explanation lies rather in the lack of opportunity. The H.K.C.C. authorities are undoubtedly to be congratulated on having got their ground in such perfect condition, but are if anything over-careful in nursing their pitches. After all, what we want to do during the coming interport tourney is to win matches, and if our cricketers haven't the opportunities of playing in serious matches, and plenty of them, there will be a sad lack of combination.

Maclaren and Fry, two of the greatest cricketers of the day, and without any question authorities on the fine points of the game, lay particular stress on the absolute necessity of fielding and combination. If this applies to Home cricket, where the batsmen place the balls practically where they want to, how much more so should it apply to Hongkong, where most

wielders of the willow are content in protecting their balls and driving the leather along the carpet. Really the only useful practice for a team as a team are matches against other teams. It should therefore be the policy of the Selection Committee to select their team quite a month ahead and to arrange as many matches as possible against the next best combinations available. It should not be a difficult matter to have the pitches for these matches away from the turf they intend to use for the interport contests.

League cricket has not yet started, but some of the clubs have had friendly matches, Kowloon, Craigengower and the Buffs each having had games, but nothing very startling has developed in the way of new blood. League matches will be watched very closely as having a distinct bearing on interport matches.

Telegraphs are to be congratulated on again entering the lists. Their form at the latter end of last season was quite good, and it would not be a surprise to see at least two of their number chosen to represent the Colony.

UMPIRE.

LEAGUE FOOTBALL.

A serious start is being made with football to-day, when the second season of the League will be inaugurated. Since last season there are not so many possible claimants for the Hongkong Daily Press Cup. The Y.M.C.A., the R.A.M.C., the Club Lusitano, and the B.O.C. have dropped out of the league, which, however, has been strengthened by the Hongkong Football Club and the newly-formed eleven at Kowloon. To-day's matches will be watched with interest, as they will doubtless show the capabilities of the respective teams. The premier football club has gathered together a very likely lot, and as the R.E.s may be expected to show up well, this struggle for the first brace of points should be well worth seeing. Kowloon's debut will be watched with interest, and the new team will be able to prove their merit against a strong combination from the R.G.A. The Naval Yard and Buffs face each other this afternoon, and it may be expected that the Yarders will make a better display than they did against the B. O. C. on Tuesday.

R.G.A. V. KOWLOON.

A good number of spectators watched the first league match in Kowloon, and, as was expected, the points went to the soldiers, who certainly deserved them.

The teams lined up as follows: Kowloon—Foulkes; Van Ginkel and Allen; Stubbs, A. P. Storrie, and Blackburn; Mead and Wilkie; Brown; Morris, and Hedley; R.G.A.—Bazley; Oxley and Waters; Walker, Weaver and Hewett; Crump and Ansell; Watts; Nash and Bellis.

The visitors went off in fine style and secured a couple of goals through Ansell and Nash before the home men were able to get their bearings. Kowloon were decidedly uncomfortable, and suffered from lack of cohesion. However, as the game advanced their confidence returned, and they had less hesitation in tackling their hefty opponents. The soldiers were indeed playing brilliantly, and if a forward got away with the ball the whole front line swung into position, seconded by the halves, rendering their attacks very dangerous. Their defence, though not greatly tried, proved very effective when occasion demanded. A third goal was added through Watts, and only the ubiquity of Foulkes saved Kowloon from having a bigger record against them. Van Ginkel shared honours with the goalkeeper, as he stopped many dangerous shots and frustrated many likely runs. Kowloon's halves did not feed their forwards as well as they might have done, though Storrie did exceedingly well after he found his feet. Half-time: R.G.A., 3 goals; Kowloon, 0.

In the second half Kowloon improved materially. The players realised each others' position, and, placing well, their combination resulted in their becoming aggressive fairly often. The soldiers, however, kept up their dashing play, and after Foulkes had beaten off several attacks his charge fell, again to Watts. Not a minute elapsed before Kowloon, getting

well away from the centre kick, were in front of Bazley, who was beaten by Brown, who scored Kowloon's only goal amid great enthusiasm. Encouraged by this success, the home men claimed a greater share of the game, and kept the ball travelling, and time was called just as they were threatening the soldiers' goal. Result: R.G.A., 4 goals; Kowloon, 1.

HONGKONG V. R.E.

The opening match of the season with these clubs took place on the Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon at 4.30 p.m. The teams were:—

H.K.F.C.—C. C. Hickling; J. McCubbin and F. G. Carrol; H. W. Lester; A. Gregory and H. Kilby; A. Aitcheson and A. E. G. May; W. Weston; W. Whitmarsh and H. Herstlett.

R.E.—Beardmore; Coxon and Lamb; Jackson, McCrory and Culley; Parslow and Morrish; Meaney; Taylor and Orsmond.

When the teams lined up it was noticed that four changes had taken place in the advertised team for the Club. The Sappers kicked off in the presence of a very poor attendance of spectators, due no doubt to the inclement weather. The Club players at the commencement were very ragged in their play, and the Sappers had no difficulty in keeping them to their own half of the field. Meaney, tricky as ever, gave Gregory the slip and passed to Morrish, who gave Hickling all he wanted to keep his fingers warm. From the kick-off Gregory got the ball and gave Weston a fine chance to get away; Weston sent the ball out to Aitcheson who with a splendid individual effort carried the ball up to the Sappers' goal, where Coxon had some difficulty in clearing. A surprise shot from Herstlett at a long range was caught by Beardmore, but the ball must have slipped through his hands, as to the surprise of everyone it was seen to roll into the net, putting the Club one up with their first goal of the season. Parslow and Morrish each had tries to beat Hickling, but he could do nothing wrong, and the Sappers were one goal down at half-time after having the lion's share of the game.

From the kick-off the visitors settled down to work in earnest, and Morrish gave Parslow chances to get away, which the ex B.O.C. did with vengeance, some of his shots being quite as much as Hickling could hold. From a centre by Orsmond, Hickling punched the ball against Carrol and Morrish rushing up carried the ball into the net. No further scoring taking place the match resulted in a drawn game of one goal each.

With the heavy rain of Saturday, which lasted to within an hour of the match, it was not expected that many spectators would turn up. Notwithstanding the unfavourable conditions the ropes were fairly well lined, and a few Club enthusiasts, including ladies, sat in the stand, which is still without the roof.

The visitors were early prominent with their short passing game, but a want of understanding among the forwards lost them many a good chance at close quarters.

The home team did well to draw, with four of their regular players away, and but for their starving of the new player Aitcheson, might easily have captured their first brace of points, after Coxon left the field.

Both goals were very lucky and were the result of the slippery ball.

The best men for the Club were McCubbin, Aitcheson, Carrol, and Gregory, with Weston as star. Mention must, however, be made of Hickling and May, who did all that was required of them, although a fondness for punching the ball is a great fault in the former.

The Sappers were best served by Morrish, Meaney, McCrory and Coxon. The latter player was forced to leave the field, having put his knee out. Parslow, and ex B. O. C. player, is a young forward with a promising future before him as a footballer; Beardmore was safe between the sticks, and could not be blamed for the goal scored against his side. Lamb was slow but sure, and last, but not least, Orsmond has lost nothing of his old dash.

The Club deserved to share the points, although the Sappers certainly played better football, and lasted better. With the early inclusion of Barlow and Hamilton in the Club team a good position on the league table is assured.

BUFFS V. NAVAL YARD.

These teams faced each other on the Military ground on Saturday with a strong wind blowing the length of the field from the Gap. The teams were:—Buffs:—Black; Bartlett and Ruler; Tampsett, Wren and Dare; Barker and Brewster; Taylor: Stiff and Williams.

Naval Yard:—Lethbridge; J. C. Joughin and Pascoe; Coombes, Haines and Pye; Crowley and Adams; Rockford; Mears and Dalziel.

Buffs kicked off facing the wind. From the commencement the soldiers had the game well in hand, and led at the interval by 4 goals to nil, all credited to Taylor.

With the wind behind them the Buffs slackened down in the second half, and had no difficulty in adding four more goals, making the total eight. The Yarders' forwards failed to score.

Special permission to play this match had to be obtained, as the ground should not have been played on till to-day.

It was not expected that the Yarders would be good enough for the league champions, but no one expected to see them fall away to such an extent as they did on Saturday.

The few alterations in the military team makes it, if anything, a stronger combination than that of last year, and they will have to be seriously reckoned with in the league struggle.

The Yarders' defence served them best, notably J. C. Joughin and Lethbridge. The habit of growling and finding fault with referees still mars the popularity of the Yarders, and someone in authority in the team ought to stop it; otherwise, of course, the Association may be forced to step in and interfere on behalf of the referees.

To say that the players in the Buffs' team were quite up to their past form is sufficient. A useful addition to the team was Wren at centre half, where he served the Buffs so well in the early part of last season. Stiff certainly belied his name on Saturday afternoon, as he was one of the most agile men on the field and kept the new outside right, Williams, going during the game.

The League table is as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.	Goals.
Buffs	1	1	0	0	8	0	2	
R.G.A.	1	1	0	0	4	1	2	
Club	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	
R.E.	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Kowloon	1	0	1	0	1	4	0	
Naval Yard	1	0	1	0	0	8	0	

THE STRAITS BUDGET.

AN ESTIMATED DEFICIT OF 7½ LAKHS.

The Estimates of the Government of the Straits Settlements for 1910 show a deficit of \$766,065.

The estimated deficiency in regard to liquor and opium receipts compared with 1909, the Colonial Secretary said, amounted to the huge sum of \$1,303,522, from which had to be deducted \$219,522 arrears of rent and interest. It meant that their receipts from this source in 1910 were reduced by \$1,089,300, to which had to be added \$209,807, the expenditure on the Government monopoly, or a total of \$1,298,807. They believed these were in no way over-estimated.

The Colonial Secretary said Government was not prepared to ask Council to impose an income tax. A Bill had been drafted to provide for an education rate to be levied on property. Government also considered there were certain articles of consumption which could be taxed without interfering with the trade of the port, and after the Estimates had been considered by the Select Committee, Government would consider the necessary legislation to provide about another \$300,000 by such taxes. The remainder of the deficiency Government proposed to meet out of credit balances for the present, till 1910 had shown them what were the best measures to adopt.

The death is reported of the fourteen-year old son of Mr. Ijuin, Japanese Minister to Peking. The funeral took place on September 26 and was very largely attended. The members of the Diplomatic Corps and others called on Sunday morning at the Japanese Legation to express their condolences. Great sympathy is felt with Mr. and Miss Ijuin.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

LORD KITCHENER AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, October 3rd.

Lord Kitchener arrived here this morning, coming from the P. and O. s.s. *Himalaya* up the river in a special launch.

There was no official reception, but a large crowd, including Sir Pelham Warren, H.M.'s Consul-General, and the acting Japanese Consul-General, the Captain of H.M.S. "Astraea," and many of the leading residents.

Loud cheers were raised as Lord Kitchener landed.

His Lordship stays with Colonel Bruce (Superintendent of the Municipal Police) until Wednesday, when he goes by special train to Nanking.

Shanghai, October 6th.

Lord Kitchener left by special train to-day for Nanking, accompanied by Colonel Bruce, Captain Fitzgerald (Lord Kitchener's private secretary) and Mr. Pope, the manager of the line.

There were present at the station to witness the departure of the distinguished soldier, Sir Pelham Warren (H.B.M.'s Consul-General), Mr. David Landale (Chairman of the Municipal Council), M. Ratard (French Consul) and other prominent residents.

Lord Kitchener inspected the Volunteer Corps, and in a short speech laid emphasis on their smartness and on the esprit de corps shown by so many nationalities co-operating.

Lord Kitchener goes from Nanking to Kiukiang, thence to Hankow and Peking. He will stay in the Capital a few days, and will then travel to Japan by way of Shanhaikwan, Mukden, Dalny, Port Arthur and Korea.

Shanghai, October 10th.

Lord Kitchener visited the Ming tombs on Friday.

Yesterday a special luncheon was given in his honour by H. E. Chang Jen Chun, Viceroy of Nanking, when toasts to the respective Sovereigns of China and Great Britain were proposed.

Lord Kitchener leaves Nanking to-day for Hankow.

THE BUTLER WRIGHT CASE.

APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE VENUE OF TRIAL.

Shanghai, October 4th.

Mr. Douglas, the solicitor acting for Mr. Butler Wright, applied to the Supreme Court to-day to change the venue of trial to Shanghai.

He filed an affidavit by the accused in which he said that the whole of the residents of the Shaméen were his enemies, and that he conscientiously believes it impossible to obtain a fair trial at Canton.

His Lordship the Chief Justice (Sir H. W. de Sausmarez) said the Consul had reported that fifteen jurymen were available who could be trusted to give an independent and proper judgment. If necessary, the Court could sit with Assessors.

His Lordship added that he had been informed that H. E. Wei Han (Managing Director of the line) might be unavailable as a witness. His attendance, however, was essential, and he would request H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking to communicate with the Chinese Government in regard to this matter.

The application was adjourned until Wednesday.

Shanghai, October 6th.

The Chief Judge of the Supreme Court to-day announced that he had decided, though somewhat reluctantly, that the case against Mr. Butler Wright must be heard at Canton.

His Lordship said he thought certain comments in the Hongkong papers to which his attention had been directed were unfortunate, but it was unlikely to prejudice the minds of people in Canton, where the Consul had telegraphically assured him that a fair trial was obtainable.

Mr. Lindsay Smith, Assistant Judge, will leave here on Friday to preside at the trial.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

DEATH OF CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

Peking, October 5th.

Grand Secretary Chang Chih-tung died yesterday at 9 p.m. Before his death he prepared a memorial to the Throne.

[This memorial probably referred to the appointment of his successor, and doubtless made suggestions as to the manner in which the Government should be conducted.]

The official record of H.E. Chang Chih-Tung, Grand Secretary, Grand Councillor, and Controller-General of the Board of Education, extended over a period of forty-six years. A brief reference to the venerable statesman is made in the course of our leading article, which was written before news of his death was received.]

PRINCE HSUN.

Peking, October 5th.

Prince Hsun will not proceed to foreign countries to study naval affairs as arranged.

Peking, October 8th.

The Prince Regent, not being satisfied with the way in which Prince Hsun had done his duty when ordered to inspect naval forts, etc., at first countermanded his projected visit to foreign countries to study naval questions.

At the request of the British and French Ministers at Peking, however, he granted him permission to leave for Shanghai on Sunday, en route for London.

CHINESE NAVAL REFORM.

Peking, October 5th.

The Board of Finance has decided to draw from the Kiukiang Custom House taels 1,800,000 to defray the expense of reforming the Navy.

Peking, October 8th.

Admiral Sah has been ordered by the Throne to superintend the building of the principal naval fort at Cheungshan, near Shanghai.

CHINESE BANK AT TSINGTAU.

Peking, October 8th.

The Board of Finance has decided to establish a branch of the Imperial Bank of China at Tsingtau.

JACK ASHORE.

ESCAPADE OF BRITISH BLUEJACKETS IN JAPAN

The British cruiser *Monmouth* left Nagasaki for Vladivostok on the 19th ult. Prior to her departure 15 bluejackets, over-staying leave ashore, created a disturbance in the town of Nagasaki. Five of the men are stated to have behaved violently. As they were to be arrested by the police at the instance of the commander of the warship in consequence of their prolonged stay ashore, they seized a waterman's boat at the hatoba and rowed into the harbour. The harbour police then despatched a steam launch, and when it approached the boat occupied by the bluejackets its occupants menaced the police by drawing swordsticks and brandishing clubs. The bluejackets manoeuvred their boat alongside a British steamer to escape on board that vessel, but her captain having raised the gangway, the five tars attempted to make for the offing, this time commandeering a lighter. Meanwhile, the Commander of the *Monmouth*, on receipt of tidings from the harbour police, sent ten other bluejackets to arrest the defaulters. The latter now landed at the Mitsu Bishi shipbuilding yard and effected an escape though the yard. Passing the shipbuilding yard, the men entered a bar, where they were finally arrested by the ten bluejackets specially detailed from the British warship in co-operation with the police, to whom they offered desperate resistance. The disturbance lasted about four hours, but fortunately nothing serious occurred, except injuries sustained by one policeman and one bluejacket.

COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 11th October:—The quotation of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.10	to	\$5.15
" Round, Good quality ..	5.10	to	5.15
" Long	5.15	to	5.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	5.05	to	5.10
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	5.25	to	5.30
" White	5.35	to	5.40
" Fine Cargo	5.50	to	5.55

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, October 9th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,160/1,200	per picul
Malwa Old	\$1,210/1,240	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,250/1,280	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,290/1,320	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,100/1,140	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$1,000/1,050	do.
Patna New	\$1,210	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1,190	do.
Benares New	\$1,210	do.
Benares Old	\$1,160	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai, 1st Oct., 1909, state:—The market has naturally been a very quiet one during the interval, although in the first part there was nothing to complain about as regards clearances. The settlement appears to have passed off satisfactorily, but no doubt the dealers are waiting to have their credits renewed before they can resume business, for absolutely nothing has taken place as yet. There is a fair promise, however, that clearances will be resumed in a day or two on a large scale and fresh transactions will soon follow. But they will have to be on a higher level of prices—that first hand holders, at all events, seem quite determined about, as prices recently current are fully 20% below present replacing cost, and the margin seems more likely to increase than otherwise. There are unfortunately some weak second hand holders, whom it is impossible to control—they suddenly get discouraged and part with their goods at quite inadequate prices, which tends to keep the whole market down. Then the Auctions more or less set the price for staple makes, private sellers declaring there is a difference of five to ten per cent. between what they are holding for and those that are current at the public sales. Unquestionably these latter are very inadequate, as can be plainly seen if compared with those ruling at the commencement of the year, when Exchange was certainly a little lower, namely, 2s. 3½d., but Cotton was 4.99d. This clearly shows what private sellers have to contend against, when their natural object is not to sell below replacing cost. How is it possible for a market to recover under these circumstances? From the Country markets there is little to report. It is satisfactory to see that the Native Authorities are at last taking some steps to put a stop to the boycott against all British steamers at Kiukiang that has been allowed to go on too long. Foreigners here generally hail with approval the idea of recalling the former Grand Councilor Yuan-Shih-Kai to assist the Government out of the difficulties they have got themselves into. It will be none too soon, if they want to keep the Country intact and solvent. Recent advices from Manchuria plainly state that the demand for heavy Grey goods is slowly but surely reverting to American goods, and this would certainly seem to be confirmed by the freer shipments that are going to Newchwang. The crops in that Province are said, in most quarters, to be in excellent condition and very abundant, but that is not confirmed by a well known Native resident who has recently returned from an extended visit to that part of the country, the Bean crop, from what he gathers, being likely to be 20% short of last year. Great preparations are being made to continue the export trade on an extensive scale, which should be very beneficial to the growers. The Manchester market is closed so far as business with this part of the world is concerned. The few telegraphic enquiries that have gone from here have elicited replies that have simply flabbergasted the senders. For staple make sprices are fully 20% over those obtainable here at present. Cotton, in Liverpool, after sundry little ups and downs, comes this morning 7.33d for Mid-American, the highest point touched as yet this season, in fact since Sep-

tember 1907. The latest quotation for December/January was 6.94d. Egyptian has advanced to 10½d. In New York Cotton had advanced to 13.35 cents, spot, and 13.19 cents for December option. In spite of the poor demand there is for piece goods the market for yarn is very strong for all spinings. English 2/fold 32s. have taken a bound upwards, sales being reported of Baerleins Eagle chop at Tls. 155.00 and Crown at Tls. 157.50. Indian yarns are advancing also, two to three taels a bale having been paid during the interval over the prices ruling last week. The same may be said of both Japanese and the local production, but the shortage of the raw material is curtailing the output of the latter mills. Consequently the Cotton market is being exploited for all it is worth, Japan being an eager competitor at the same time. There is positively nothing to report in the way of fresh business of any description, either from stock, owing to the firmness of holders, who decline to accept prices that were ruling three months ago, "or perhaps a trifle less," as one Importer put it, or for forward arrival, because of the uncertainty as to what some of their headstrong neighbours might do. There has been a small business in American makes at about previous prices, all resales. The market does not have a chance of recovering while these transactions remain possible. A weak second handed holder let some 4 yard goods go at Tls. 3.60, whereas no Importer would think of taking less than Tls. 4.00 for such cloth now. The Auctions that have taken place subsequently to the Mid-Autumn Festival have on the whole shown some improvement, but it is by no means universal or very evenly distributed. The quotations published overleaf with the previous week's prices for comparison, best tell their own tale. Woollens continue to gain in strength.

EXPORTS:—

CAMPHOR

HONGKONG, 11th October:—The above market is at a standstill and prices remain as last quoted.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORT.

HANKOW, 23rd Sept.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 37.00
" seconds	" 34.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 9.15
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 8.15
Green China Grass, Szechuan	" —
Jute	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 11.35
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 10.80
Animal Tallow	" 11.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.60
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 17.90
Tobacco Tinchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Black Bristles	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.30
Broad Beans	" 1.97
White Peas	" 2.10
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 9.00
Tea Oil	" —

Per P. & O. steamer *Delta*, sailed on 2nd October 1909. For Manchester—50 bales waste silk. For Lyons—286 bales raw silk. For Milan—30 bales raw silk. For Marseilles—10 bales raw silk, 1 case silk embroidery, 52 bales waste silk, 6 cases feathers. Gibraltar—2 cases silks, 1 case curries. For London—1067 pkgs. tea, 50 bales waste silk, 5 cases silks, 40 bales raw silk, 1 case painted panels, 2 cases books, 21 pkgs. p/effects, 4 coils rope, 15 cases sample caps.

Per P. & O. steamer *Nile*, sailed on 7th October 1909. For Antwerp—100 bales hemp. For Dundee—2 cases cigars. For Marseilles—10 cases hats. For London—1,926 pkgs. tea, 50 rolls matting, 100 cases preserves, 66 cases preserves, 54 bales canes, 10 cases hats, 3 cases cigars, 3,100 bales hemp, 395 bales maguay, 16 cases p/effects, 1 case blackwood ware, 927 cases wet gun cotton.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 24th Sept.—Gallnuts.—Market continues steady and active. Cowhides.—Market has opened in a small way at Hankow at full prices. Feathers.—Market quiet. Cotton.—Some business has been done in the Hankow staple. The Shanghai qualities do not interest buyers at present high prices. Tallow.—Good business. Market rising. Wood Oil.—Quiet, but steady. Sesamum seed.—The season has started in earnest and a very good business has been done. Sellers are now more inclined to meet buyers. Strawbraid.—Market quiet. Goat-skin Rugs.—Neglected. Good demand for Sheep-skin rugs. Wool.—Sheep.—No business, owing to scarcity of supplies. Antimony.—Market firm. Good inquiry.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 8th October, 1909.—Our local market continues very dull and rates with very few exceptions incline to weakness. Business in Rubbers also shows a slight slackening off and the market generally closes quiet. Exchange on London closes at 1/8 15/16 T/T, and on Shanghai at 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue a steady market, with small sales at 990 and 992½ during the week, closing with buyers at the former rate. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have further improved after sales at 845, 847½ and 850, to the last named rate, at which the market closes steady. Cantons have declined to 175, with sellers. Other stocks under this heading call for no comment.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires continuing in demand, without inducing sellers to part, have further advanced to 370, closing with buyers at that rate. China's continue neglected, at 114 sellers, but buyers at 113 meet with no response.

SHIPPING.—With the exception of Shells which have improved in London to 71/6 and locally to 74/6, we have nothing to report under this heading, the market closing with sellers of all other shares at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled weaker and some small lots are obtainable at 146, and possibly at 145. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—All stocks under this heading, with the exception of Langkats and Chinese Engineerings in the North, have ruled very dull, and we have no business to report or comments to make. In Langkats there has been some excitement in the North, and the market, after falling to 790, somewhat suddenly jumped to 880 for December, and then went back again to 840 for cash, at which the market closes with buyers, according to the latest quotations from the North. Chinese Engineerings have improved to 18½ with buyers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue a weak market, and we have only some few small sales at 55 to report. Kowloon Wharfs have continued strong, and after some unimportant sales at 60½ and 61, close with buyers at the higher rate. Shanghai Docks were quoted during the week at 75 in Shanghai, but at time of closing the market appears to have rallied and sales have been effected at 76 and 76½. Hongkew Wharfs keep steady at 138.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed hands at 104, West Points at 43, and Humphreys at 9½. Other stocks under this heading remain neglected.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have fallen slightly to 136½ and Soy Chees to 450, by telegram. Internationals have fallen to 89, and Laou Kung Mows to 112, the last two quotations are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

RUBBERS.—The market in the early part of the week was fairly active, and rates well maintained. At the close a slackness has set in, in sympathy with a temporary weakness on the London market. Our latest advices from London, this morning, say that "the market opened dull but closed firmer." The following sales have taken place locally during the week: Led-burys at £2 12 6, £2 10, and £2 13, closing at £2 10; Golcondas at £2 18 6, Shelfords at 36/37 and 38, the latter closing with sellers at the highest rate. Anglo-Malays at 16/6, 16/, and later at 15/9, Castlefields at £2 17 6 and £2 16 4. Balgownies at 71 cum div. of S\$2 paid on the 30th

ultimo, and at 68½, 70 and 70½ ex div. Pegohs have been placed in fair lots at S\$25, but close with sellers at 24½.

MISCELLANEOUS—Dairys have receded to 17½, but there are buyers at that rate. Electrics have been placed at the reduced rate of 20, Peak Trams at 13½, S. C. M. Posts at 23½, and Ices at 185. All other stocks under this heading have remained neglected, and with the exception of Bell's Asbestos close with sellers.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$990, buyers
National B. of China	£6	£92, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6d.	\$10, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$13, sellers
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$6.10, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9.60, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 136½
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$6½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 92
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 113
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 450
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$6	\$17½, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$61, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$55, sales & sel.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 76
S'hai & H. Wharf....	Tls. 100	Tls. 138½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$8, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$20, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co. }	\$50	\$72½
	\$25	\$43½
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$185, sellers
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$23, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$113, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$92, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$370, buyers
North China	£5	Tls. 115, sellers
Union	\$100	\$850, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$230½
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$104, sales
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$43, sales
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fr. 250	\$625, buyers
Raubs	18/10d.	\$8½, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$13½, sales
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$1	\$140, sellers
	\$10	\$9, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$146, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$23, sellers
Robinson Piano Co. ...	\$50	\$50, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$8½, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33, sellers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$31½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	\$41, sellers
	£5	\$19, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	£1	74/6, buyers
Star Ferry.....	\$10	\$26
	\$5	\$14½, sellers
South China M. Post...	\$25	\$23½, sales
Steam Laundry Co....	\$5	\$5½, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co...	\$10	\$12
Wm. Powell, Ltd. ...	\$7	\$4, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Weissmann, Ltd.....	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½, sellers
Union Waterboat Co...	\$10	\$300
	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Rubbers—		
Castlefields, fully p.	—	£2.18.0, sellers
Ltnggis	—	24/6 buyers
Anglo-Malays	—	16/-, sales
Shelfords	—	38/-, sellers
Balgownies	—	\$70 (Straits), x.d.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

30th September, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$1,030, buyers
National of China...	£6	\$51
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 125
	T125	
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'tn	\$100	\$842½, sales
North-China	£5	Tls. 115, buyers
Yangtze Assocn. ...	\$60	\$232½, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$180, sales
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$355, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$115
Shipping:—		
Indo - China { pref. }	£5	Tls. 44, sellers
Shell Trans. { ord. }	£1	70/
& Trading { pref. }	£10	£9.10.0
S'hai Tug & { pref. }	T50	Tls. 43, sellers
Lighter ... { ord. }	T50	Tls. 52, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 45
Kochien Transport-	T50	Tls. 50, sales
ation & To Boat		
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 77, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$60½, buyers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 140, sellers
H. K'looi W. & G...	\$50	\$60, buyers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 200, sellers
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 355, sellers
China Refining.....	\$100	\$147½
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	£1	Tls. \$8½, sales
Chinese Eng. & Min.	£1	Tls. 17½, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 120, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$104, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	T10	\$9½, sellers
Weiheiwei	T20	Tls. 9
China	T50	Tls. 50
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 106, sales
Plantations:—		
Kalumpung Rubber	T50	Tls. 250, sellers
Chempedak	...	Tls. 14
S. R'ber Estates ...	T100	Tls. 285, sellers
T. R. & T. Estate Co.	£1	Tls. 17, sales
Dominion Rubbers..	T6	Tls. 13, sellers
Shanghai - Sumatra		
Tobacco	T20	Tls. 118, sales
Cottons, etc:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 137, buyers
Internationals	T75	Tls. 89
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 112
Soy Chees	T500	Tls. 460, sellers
H.C.S.W.D. Co., Ltd.	\$10	Tls. 6½, buyers
Shanghai Cotton	T50	Tls. 70, sellers
Eastern Fibre	£10	Tls. 10
Industrial:—		
Maatschappij, &c.,	Gs. 100	Tls. 800
in Langkat		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 112, sellers
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 52½
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 15
China Flour Mill...	T50	Tls. 45, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 35, buyers
Green Is. Cement...	\$10	\$8.70, sellers
S'hai Waterworks...	£20	Tls. 425, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	\$100	\$82½, buyers
A. Butler Cement,		
Tile Works	T50	Tls. 23½, sales
Shanghai Electric		
Construction.....	£10	£7.0.0, sellers
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 75
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos	\$25	\$20½
China Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50
Stores:—		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$20	\$23, buyers
A. Llewellyn.....	\$60	\$65
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$9
Central Ordinary...	\$15	\$17½, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co....	\$50	\$40
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$26½, sales
Lane, Crawford & Co.	\$100	\$165, sales
Bunning & Co.	\$50	\$35
Hotels:—		
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$19
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$75, buyers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 5½
Tsingtao Hotel	\$100	Tls. 75
Miscellaneous:—		
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 55
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 66, buyers
Dallas Horse Re-		
pository	T50	Tls. 25

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending Sept. 30th state:— This week following the Settlement has been very quiet, no business being put through on the 24th (Settlement Day) or the 28th, when the Banks & Stock Exchange were closed for the Mid-Autumn Chinese Festival. The T.T. rate is 2/3½. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banks. No business reported. Insurance, Shipping, Sugars & Mining.—No business. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves: Cash sales took place on the 25th at Tls. 140. On the 27th at Tls. 141-Tls. 140. December sales were made on the 29th at Tls. 142. Shanghai Docks & Engineering Co.—Shares changed hands on the 29th at Tls. 77. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. A single transaction took place on the 29th at Tls. 120. In Anglo-French Lands there is no business reported. Plantations.—Senawangs. Shares have been in demand and changed hands on the 27th at Tls. 180, and on the 29th at Tls. 285. Dominions. A sale was reported on the 29th at Tls. 12½ cash and Tls. 15½ for fully paid-up shares. Kalumpungs were sold for December delivery on the 29th at Tls. 260. Tebongs changed hands on the same date at Tls. 17. Chempedaks are quoted at Tls. 14, and at this rate business was done. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—On the 27th shares were sold at Tls. 112½ cash and December. On the 29th at Tls. 115, and on the 30th at Tls. 118 cash and Tls. 120-122½ December. Cottons, etc.—Shanghai Cottons. Sales were made on the 27th at Tls. 70 for cash. Laou-Kung-Mows changed hands on the same date at Tls. 112, and on the 29th at Tls. 115 December. A single transaction is reported in Soy-Chees at Tls. 475. Ewos found buyers on the 29th at Tls. 140-Tls. 139-Tls. 138½ December, and closed with buyers at Tls. 136 cash. Industrial.—Mataschappij &c. in Langkats. The only transaction reported officially was on the 25th at Tls. 840 cash. Shanghai Waterworks were dealt in on 30th at Tls. 425. Stores & Hotels.—In Astor House Hotels a transaction is reported at Tls. 18½ and in Central Stores at Tls. 17½. Loans & Debentures.—No business reported. Shanghai Municipal Debentures are in demand.

EXCHANGE.

Hongkong, October 11th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 15/16
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 1/16
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/8
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 5/16
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	1/9 7/16
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	220
Credits 4 months' sight	224
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	178½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	43½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	130½
Bank, on demand	130½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	130½
Bank on demand	130½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	85
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	85½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	74½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	105
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	8½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	8 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	88½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate.....	\$11.45
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$59.80
BAR SILVER per oz.	23½

SHIPPING CHARTERS.

The following is Mr. Geo. Grimble's list of fixtures during the week:—

- s.s. *Ulv*, 12 months' time charter, at \$4,250.00 per month.
 s.s. *Providence*, 12 months' time charter, at \$4,250.00 per month.
 s.s. *Breid*, 12 months' time charter, at \$4,250.00 per month.
 s.s. *Loyal*, Newchwang to Canton, 25,000 piculs at 25 cents per picul.
 s.s. *Tamsui*, Saigon to Philippines, 35,000 piculs, at 20 cents per picul.
 s.s. *Marie*, Java to Hongkong, private terms.
 s.s. *Bushu Maru*, Mororan to Hongkong, 3,500 tons at \$2.80 per ton.
 s.s. *Oscar 2nd*, Pulo Laut to Hongkong, 4,000 tons, at \$2.40 per ton.
 Newchwang to Canton—A China Navigation steamer, 25,000 piculs, at 26 cents.
 s.s. *Benalder*, South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, 4,000/4,200 tons, at \$1.75.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October:—

ARRIVALS.

- 1, Anamba, British str., from Foochow.
- 1, China, American str., from San Francisco.
- 1, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 1, Delta, British str., from Shanghai.
- 1, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 1, Kanchow, Brit. str., from Weihaiwei.
- 1, Kueichow, British str., from Chefoo.
- 1, Kweilin, Br. str., from Karatsu.
- 1, Mausang, Brit. str., from Sandakan.
- 1, Spezia, German str., from Foochow.
- 1, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 1, Vine Branch, British str., from Sydney.
- 2, Antenor, British str., from Singapore.
- 2, Glenavon, British str., from Vladivostok.
- 2, Johanne, German str., from Hongay.
- 2, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
- 3, Aki Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3, C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 3, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Onafa, British str., from Manila.
- 3, Machaon, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Nanchang, Br. str., from Chingwantao.
- 3, Szechuen, British str., from Wakamatsu.
- 4, Ascania, German str., from Samarang.
- 4, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Quinta, Ger. str., from Sourabaya.
- 5, Hanyang, British str., from Chingwantao.
- 5, Hupeh, British str., from Karatsu.
- 5, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Lightning, British str., from Singapore.
- 5, Manchuria, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 5, M. Jensen, German str., from Tegal.
- 5, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
- 5, Suruga, British str., from New York.
- 5, Taikoson Maru, Japanese str., for Miike.
- 5, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 5, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Amara, British str., from Hongay.
- 6, Bloemfontein, Brit. str., from New York.
- 6, Daigi Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 6, Germania, German str., from Wakamatsu.
- 6, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
- 6, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 6, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Meefoo, Chi. str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Nile, British str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Oopack, British str., from Liverpool.
- 6, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Bremen.
- 6, Sungkiang, British str., from Cebu.
- 6, Titan, British str., from Tacoma.
- 7, Bushu Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
- 7, E. of Japan, Br. str., from Vancouver.
- 7, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 7, Hoangho, German str., from Taku Bar.
- 7, Palermo, British str., from London.
- 8, Cheong Shing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 8, Childar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Kiukiang, British str., from Chefoo.
- 8, Kjeld, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
- 8, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 8, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Amoy.
- 8, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Macassar.

October:—

DEPARTURES.

- 1, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 1, Kaifuku Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 1, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 1, Mandasan Maru, Japanese str., for Miike.
- 1, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 1, Siberia, American str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
- 1, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Tydeus, British str., for Saigon.
- 2, Anamba, British str., for Langkat.
- 2, Delta, British str., for Europe, &c.
- 2, Gregory Apear, Br. str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
- 2, Soshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 2, Spezia, German str., for Singapore.
- 2, Tacoma Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Vorwarts, German str., for Hoihow.
- 2, Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 2, Woukoi, German str., for Swatow.
- 3, Chenan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 3, Flintshire, British str., for Singapore.
- 3, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Paklat, German str., for Amoy.
- 3, Petchaburi, German str., for Swatow.
- 3, Simongan, Dutch str., for Saigon.
- 3, Suveric, British str., for Keelung.
- 3, Triumph, German str., for Belliton.
- 3, Victoria, Swedish str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Yatshing, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Choysang, British str., for Ningpo.
- 6, Drufer, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 6, Glenavon, British str., for London.
- 6, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Japan, British str., for Singapore.
- 6, Kueichow, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Luechow, British str., for Tsingtau.
- 6, Machaon, British str., for Singapore.
- 6, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Europe, &c.
- 6, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
- 6, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Bloemfontein, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., for Singapore.
- 7, Kiang Ching, Chi. str., for Chinkiang.
- 7, Nile, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Onafa, British str., for Kobe.
- 7, Pongtong, German str., for Bangkok.
- 7, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Quinta, German str., for Sourabaya.
- 7, Suruga, British str., for Singapore.
- 8, Anhui, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Bessie Dollar, British str., for Kobe.
- 8, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Oopack, British str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 8, P. Sigismund, Ger. str., for Manila, &c.
- 8, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Mausang*, from Sandakan, Mr Thompson.
 Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Rev. Schultz.
 Per *Palermo*, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Auguste Krah.
 Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Mrs Perinne and child, and Mr Melchers.
 Per *Kutsang*, from Calcutta, &c., Misses Scott and Kipps, and Mr Cruikshank.
 Per *Linan*, from Shanghai, Capt. Hall, Capt. Hutchinson, Messrs Binder and Buhrmann.
 Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mrs Hargreaves, Miss Fisher, Messrs Prising, Kermin, Horn, Yoder, Cowen, Boulanger, Watson and Baria.
 Per *Nile*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs G. Glasow, R. Linklater, T. O'Connell and J. Watson; from Shanghai, Messrs Halde-man and Hilliard.
 Per *Aki Maru*, from Japan, &c., Mr and Mrs C. W. Rummell, Mrs Mattock, daughter and son, Captain W. H. C. Davy, Messrs J. F. Treadaway, G. Groggs, N. G. Come, R. C. Andrews, J. B. Lambert and F. Chow.
 Per *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Schwester Ida Müller; from Antwerp, Mr Th. Ressissoglou; from Southampton, Rev. and Mrs G. D. Thomson, Messrs W. I. Buchanan and A. S. Woodget; from Genoa, Miss Elisabeth Walter, Messrs Polizeimeister R. Kraft, Edward Schöuleber, H. Rapp, Max Itrezinski, F. Müller, Karl Paukert and Heinrich Dinkela; from Naples, Mr Edgar Sacre; from Colombo, Mr C. H. Ford; from Penang, Mr T. Morrat; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs C. Brockmann, Messrs C. Stewart, H. F. May and C. F. Sutton.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mrs A. H. Smith, Mrs E. Gordon, Mrs A. Quintos, Miss Miriam Myers, Lt.-Col. G. Adams, Major Waterhouse, Messrs Patterson, C. E. Dodge, H. S. Appleton, B. Dodge, Waterhouse, J. Clark, F. Swartz-whask, T. Quintos, A. Confacos and B. W. A. Forest.

Per *Delta*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr and Mrs E. Adet, Mrs S. Madar, Miss Beattie Gallardi, Misses Phillips (2), Captain Dwyer, Messrs J. W. Jamieson and servant, N. G. Maitland, A. Adet, F. Coulthart, A. Rondon, A. Madar, R. M. Dyer, F. C. Burt and J. P. Harrop; from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mr R. C. Graff; for Singapore, Mr S. Otani; for Bombay, Mr and Mrs Y. Ranno, and Mr Kobei Seki; for London, Count and Countess Otani, and Mr Z. Ashikaga.

Per *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, from Japan, &c., Mr and Mrs R. Fuhrmann, Mr and Mrs Kramer, Mrs H. Becker, Mrs T. Nolasco and family, Mrs Kalo Imafuko, Mrs H. C. Guedes, Mrs G. F. Pereida, Misses M. N. von Nessen, H. Hedstrom, L. Borbein and E. Pereida, Dr. T. des Arts, Dr. A. des Arts, Zahm. Asp. Goetz, Messrs N. D. Mudie, C. O. Major, D. MacDonald, R. S. Smith, A. Thru, G. Haddon, Kemlein, S. Nakagawa, S. Wada, L. Hachmann, A. Breszko, Z. Apponje, Paozu She and family.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, &c., Mr and Mrs Von Dippe, Hon. F. H. and Mrs May, Misses Phoebe, Irise, Diones May and nurse, Mrs and Miss K. G. Hett, Mr and Miss Newall, Miss O. Ingall, Lt. B. E. Coke, R.N., Lt. J. N. Lopes, R.N., Capt. G. G. Thatcher, Dr. M. R. Richards, Sisters Marie de Lourdes, St. Joseph, St. Pierre Eleanor, M. de Eixfont Jesus, M. de St. George and St. Jean Evangeliste, Messrs G. Ballock, F. A. J. Davidson, G. M. Ritchie, Edward Poskitt, F. Graham, Norman K. Bain, R. H. Gaskin, P. Washburn, M. W. Weeks and J. McHutchon.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs Takamishi Kuche, Mr and Mrs Emile Adet, Mrs D. D. Douglas, Mrs Crozier and infant, Misses Scarle and Maud Coffin, Messrs G. A. Zizelman, J. Peterson, E. A. Aced, G. T. Desdien, G. R. Bubb, C. R. Johnson, L. E. McElhaner and A. Adet.

Per *Nile*, for London, &c., Mr and Mrs F. P. Lachlan, Sergt. and Mrs Moore and 2 children, Mrs Maitland, Mrs Tweedie, infant and nurse, Mrs Scott and infant, Miss A. M. T. Millington, Lt. W. L. Fielding, R.N., Lt. Ray, St. Evans, St. Thomas, Master Miller, Pte. Lucas, Messrs F. Newton, G. C. Glover, J. McGlashan, I. S. Smith, S. W. A. Forrest, Manning, C. Brown and Glanville.

Per *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, for Hamburg, &c., Mr and Mrs Bavenden and child, Mr and Mrs L. Groenier and child, Mr and Mrs G. E. Griffin, Mr and Mrs B. H. Gowing, Mr and Mrs Theodor Grupe, Mr and Mrs Klootwyk and children, Mr and Mrs Klewer and children, Mr and Mrs Louis T. Leonowens, Mr and Mrs J. aupmann E. Mater, Mr and Mrs Ober Torp. Picker and child, Mr and Mrs P. Fr. Richter, Mr and Mrs Zefferino Rossi, Mr and Mrs Rolff, Dr. and Mrs J. J. Noll, Dr. and Mrs Wilson Reed, child and servant, Mrs H. Dieckmann, Mrs M. Humphrey, Mrs A. Leggett and children, Mrs Fue Maeda, Mrs A. Lloyd Price and child, Mrs Schenk, Mrs S. Smith, Mrs F. Wolff, Misses Gertrud, Credner, A. Gronier, O. Goffe, Hashigushi, N. Koda, Morris (2), Schenk and Suzuki, Lieuts. von Ahlefeld, Dehn, von Kries, Graf von Montgelas, von Reiche and von Schütz, Doctors Berkhout, Günther, G. P. Gostin and family, Capt. Holdt, Major Mc-Dermoth, The R. Honr. Earl of Berkeley, Sub.-Lieut. Hofer, Sub.-Lieut. Hempel, Messrs Granger Adams, R. Berkeley, A. Blum, Buchinger, F. Caldelli, V. Cecere, Paul Desebrock, Goebel, H. Giffard, Giffard, Goldkoop, W. Hasselmann, K. Iwae, F. Klevenhusen, Masch, Kistenmacher, Gräfin Mita, H. Morris, E. Müller, F. Müller, Fähnr. Niemeyer, F. L. Odom, Pitts, Pearson, Baron Rosen, P. Rüggeberg, Obermasck, Strey, J. Tanaka, Mar. Pfarrer Tanne, Albert Waterhouse, F. T. P. Waterhouse and A. Zobst.

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